# NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN
## Board Meeting - July 26-27, 2011

**Madison, WI**

NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
ACTION PLAN


# AGENDA BOOK

**National Fish Habitat Board Meeting**
**July 26-27, 2011**
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**National Fish Habitat Board Meeting July 26 and 27, 2011 draft agenda**

Madison Concourse Hotel (Capitol Ballroom)

(One West Dayton St., Madison, Wisconsin 53703 Telephone: 800-356-8293 Fax: (608) 257-8454)

Directions: http://www.concoursehotel.com/hotel/directions/

[This meeting will be available by conference call and web-ex. See instructions below]

**Tuesday July 26**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8:30 – 8:45 | Welcome and Introductions | Kelly Hepler | |
| 8:45- 9:15 | Housekeeping<br>*Desired outcomes:*<br>• **Board action** to approve draft agenda and draft minutes **Board action** to approve a method for providing future meeting access through the web/conference call<br>• **Board review** of future meeting schedules | Kelly Hepler | Tab 1 |
| 9:15-9:30 | Website Update<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Informational** update on plan to improve functionality and content of www.fishhabitat.org<br>• **Board suggestions** on additional ways to improve website. | Ryan Roberts | NA |
| 9:30-10:00 | Rebranding Proposal<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Board action** to adopt rationale and rebranding proposal to change from "National Fish Habitat Action Plan" to "National Fish Habitat Action Partnership" | Ryan Roberts | Tab 2 |
| 10:00-10:15 | BREAK | | |
| 10:15- 10:45 | Driftless Area Restoration Effort Presentation<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Informational** presentation on key achievements and priorities of the Driftless Network | Jeff Hastings (TU) and Louise Mauldin (FWS) | Tab 3 |
| 10:45-11:00 | Status of Fish Habitat Partnerships<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Informational** status update on partnerships. | Tom Busiahn | Tab 3 |
| 11:00-11:30 | Multi-state conservation grants<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Informational** update on status of multi-state conservation grants.<br>• **Board suggestions** on engaging in AAFWA MSCG process | Matt Menashes/ Kelly Hepler | Tab 4 |
| 11:30-12:00 | Guidelines for FHP endorsement of projects<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Board action** to approve proposed guidelines. | Tom Busiahn | Tab 5 |
| 12:00-1:30 | LUNCH | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1:30-1:45 | Allocation of FY2011 FWS funds<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Informational** update on status of FY2011 FWS funds | Bryan Arroyo | Tab 6 |
| 1:45-2:15 | The Power of Collaboration: Predicting Aquatic Habitat Condition for 7 Fish Habitat Partnerships<br>Desired outcome:<br>• **Informational** update | Maureen Gallagher | NA |
| 2:15-2:45 | Science and Data Committee update<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Informational** update | Andrea Ostroff and Gary Whelan | NA |
| 2:45-3:00 | BREAK | | |
| 3:00-4:00 | Legislation<br>*Desired outcome*:<br>• **Informational** report status of National Fish Habitat Conservation Act legislation | Gordon Robertson | Tab 7 |
| 4:00-4:30 | Economic Benefits of NFHAP projects<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Informational** update on draft findings of the economic benefits of NFHAP projects<br>• **Board action** on proposed uses of this information. | Brad Gentner | Tab 8 |

Evening social gathering at “The Great Dane” in the pool hall.

**Wednesday July 27**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8:00-8:30 | Performance Measure Options<br>*Desired outcomes:*<br>• **Board action** to adopt proposed measures and process | Steve Perry | Tab 9 |
| 8:30-9:00 | Survey of Fish Habitat Partnership operational costs<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Informational** summary | Tom Busiahn | Tab 10 |
| 9:00-9:45 | Revised Funding Allocation Framework<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Informational** report of proposed options for allocating future NFHAP resources<br>• **Board action** to identify which option(s) to forward to FHPs for review | Steve Perry | Tab 11 |
| 9:45-10:00 | BREAK | | |
| 10:00-10:30 | NFHAP Secretarial Order<br>*Desired outcomes*:<br>• **Board action** to endorse proposed document | Matt Menashes | Tab 12 |
| 10:30-10:45 | Board Engagement on National Ocean Policy<br>*Desired outcomes*<br>• **Informational** update<br>• **Board input** on engagement | Eric Schwaab | NA |
| 10:45-11:30 | Board Priority Setting<br>• **Informational** update proposed focus for near term board priority-setting<br>• **Board action** to adopt and implement proposed schema and timeline for setting board priorities. | Karen Abrams | Tab 13 |
| 11:30-1:00 | LUNCH | | |
| 1:00-1:45 | Habitat Protection as component of NFHAP<br>*Desired outcome:*<br>• **Informational** summary of existing and potential future habitat protection approaches under NFHAP<br>• **Board action** on using this information to refine national objectives for habitat protection. | Susan-Marie Stedman | Tab 14 |
| 1:45-2:30 | Action Plan Revision Updates<br>*Desired outcomes:*<br>• **Informational** update of progress to revise Action Plan<br>• **Board action** endorsement of broad categories, examples and general direction. | Mike Andrews | Tab 15 |

Conference call and Web-ex instructions:

Note: Board members who wish to participate by conference call must get prior approval from the Chair.

**Call in**: 866-707-9322 / participant passcode 3163558.
Go join the **online meeting** :
1. Go to https://mminsusa.webex.com/mminsusa/e.php?AT=WMI&EventID=95566837&PW=NNjgzNzViZjZl&RT=MiM0
2. Enter your name and email address.
3. Enter the meeting password: habitat
4. Click "Join Now".
5. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

| *Meeting*<br>**National Fish Habitat Board** | *Date*<br>April 12-13, 2011 |
|---|---|

*Members Present:*
Kelly Hepler
Steve Perry
John Frampton
Mike Stone
Joe Larscheid
Ron Regan
Eric Schwaab
Joe Moran/Bryan Arroyo *for* Rowan Gould
Gary Kania *for* Chris Horton
Krystyna Wolniakowski
Steve Moyer
Mike Andrews
Bob Mahood
Stan Moberly
Stan Allen *for* Randy Fisher
Gordon Robertson
Brad Gentner
Anne Zimmermann
Fred Matt

*Members Absent:*
Doug Boyd

*Key Discussion Items:*
National Fish Habitat Conservation Act
Alternate Funding Sources for NFHAP
The Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
Setting Board priorities
Increasing Tribal Participation in NFHAP
Draft Framework for allocating funds to FHPs
FHP performance evaluation measures
NFHAP and the National Ocean Policy
Revision of NFHAP
Committee Updates: Science and Data, Communications
Future meetings

*Decisions Made:*

<u>Voted upon</u>

- Agenda and minutes from October 2010 and January 2011 meetings approved.
- Board meetings will be made accessible to the public by conference call and, if possible, webinar.

<u>Agreed, but not voted upon</u>

- FWS project funds should be examined to determine amount of federal vs non-federal match, and who our partners are (other federal agencies specifically).
- The economic benefits of FHP projects should be calculated.

- The Board should establish what its role is in fund-raising and develop a strategy to implement that role.
- The Communications Committee should develop further the concept of changing the NFHAP brand to substitute "Partnership" for "Action Plan" and bring it to the next Board meeting.
- The Criteria Development Committee should revise the draft Framework for FHP funding allocation to include both an allocation process for base funding and a competitive "block grant" process for project funding.
- The Board should establish a process to help the FHPs become high-performing.
- The Board should submit comments on how NFHAP can help implement the National Ocean Policy.

**Next meetings:**

2011

July 26-27 – Madison WI

October 19-20 – Albuquerque NM

2012 (tentative dates)

Jan 12 – conference call on budget

Week of April 23 – Washington DC to coincide with Casting Call

July 24-26 – New Hampshire or Maine

October 17-18 – Missouri?

| **Follow-up tasks** | **Who** | **When** |
|---|---|---|
| Draft meeting minutes | Susan-Marie Stedman | 4/25 |
| Look into conference call line for next meeting, maybe web streaming | Susan-Marie Stedman and Maureen Gallagher | 6/24 |
| Put together material on how FHPs projects translate into jobs and other economic benefits | Brad Gentner and Susan-Marie Stedman | 6/24 |
| Sort out federal/non-federal match for FHPs projects | Tom Busiahn | 6/24 |
| Lead team to answer these questions: 1) what is the Board's role in fund-raising, 2) how can NFHAP diversify funding sources, 3) what is the Board's role in doing that, and 4) how can the Board help the FHPs coordinate funding requests? | Krystyna Wilniakowski, Mike Stone and Fred Matt, Matt Menashes will provide staff support | |
| Review and coordinate Fish Habitat Partnership Letters of Intent for the Multi-State Conservation Grant Program | Kelly Hepler and Matt Menashes | |
| Develop more complete proposal to change name of NFHAP to "Partnership", get to Board 6 weeks ahead of Board meeting | Ryan Roberts | 6/10 |
| Investigate reaching out to Pacific Islanders | Susan-Marie Stedman | 6/24 |
| Ask the FHPs what they need for administrative operations | Andrea Ostroff | |
| Write letter to NOP comment web site | Matt Menashes | 5/29 |
| Re-schedule OMB meeting (Kelly to talk to Eric and Bryan about their presence at OMB meeting) | Ryan Roberts | 5/27 |
| Start putting together agenda for next meeting based on topics assigned to the July meeting during the April meeting | Susan-Marie Stedman | 6/10 |

Additional attendees:

Susan-Marie Stedman, NOAA-HQ and Board staff
Tom Busiahn, FWS-HQ and Board staff
Ryan Roberts, AFWA and Board Communications Director
Matt Menashes, AFWA and Board staff
Gary Whelan, MI DNRE, Co-chair, Science and Data Committee
Andrea Ostroff, USGS, Co-chair, Science and Data Committee

Maureen Gallagher, FWS-Midwest
Steve Krentz, FWS & Great Plains FHP
Robin Knox, WNTI
Cindy Williams, FWS-Atlanta
Cecil Rich, FWS-Anchorage
Cecilia Lewis, FWS-HQ
Scott Robinson, SARP
Stafford Lehr, CA DFG and CA FPF
Katherine Smith, USFS
Mark Hudy, USFS
Katrina Mueller, USFWS AK
Janine Harris, NOAA Fisheries
Karen Abrams, NOAA Fisheries
Tom Bigford, NOAA Fisheries
Patrick Egan, Fish America Foundation
John Epifanio, USGS
Amy Unthank, USFS
David Moe Nelson, NOAA Ocean Service
Emily Greene, ACFHP
Stephanie Carman, BLM and Desert FHP
Christy Plumer, TNC
Ashlie Strackbein, NFWF
Elden Hawkes, AFS

**National Fish Habitat Partnership rebranding development White Paper**

***Definition of a brand:***
A **brand** is the identity of a specific product, service, or business. A brand can take many forms, including a name, sign, symbol, color combination or slogan. The word *branding* began simply as a way to tell one person's cattle from another by means of a hot iron stamp. The word brand has continued to evolve to encompass identity - it affects the personality of a product, company or service. A brand will differentiate an organization from others and it is also the source of a promise to your partners and stakeholders.

**Building upon the National Fish Habitat Action Plan:**
With the National Fish Habitat Action Plan's legacy of successful, locally driven habitat conservation projects working to protect, restore and enhance fish habitats across the county, building upon that effort will be important for the future, as we look to incorporate new people through the partner coalition and possibly expand Fish Habitat Partnerships. The Action Plan will always be at the core of who we are and what we stand for, but forward thinking however will help us grow our partnership for the future.

***Why is it important to manage what our brand stands for*:**
To use a metaphor, brand equity is like a pond. People may not know how long the pond has been around or when it was first filled with water, but they know it supports life, from fish to frogs to ducks and deer. It is clearly a valuable resource. Similarly, brand equity is a reservoir of goodwill.

***Reasons we need to be more than our current brand of the "National Fish Habitat Action Plan"***

- We are much more now than the Action Plan that was signed in 2006
- Collectively we are not a Plan, we are a Partnership. The Plan is what we stand upon.
- The purpose of this rebranding is to communicate the evolution of the Action Plan into an active partnership.

***Reasons why the time is right to rebrand:***
The main reason to re-brand is to strongly communicate that we are a state-federal-private partnership that is focused on making significant improvements to fish habitat on the ground. Making this distinction, would prove that we are not just another program and planning exercise. We need to maintain and increase the momentum that we currently have to reinforce the idea that this is a broad national coalition in which we have tens of thousands of individual supporters that the partner organizations represent, and that our work only "begins" with the framework of the Action Plan.

***Elements of rebranding under NFHAP:***

New brand name: The National Fish Habitat Partnership

Website: Website will encompass new logo and tagline: "National Fish Habitat Partnership"

Logo: Subtle change, replacing Action Plan with Partnership

Future messaging: New comprehensive attention grabbing messaging will be included on website moving forward and rebranding language guidelines would be created for the new brand.

Action Plan revision: The revised Action Plan would include elements of the rebranding.

Communications Strategy: The Communications Strategy, which will be updated in 2011, will encompass elements of the rebranding, which would be incorporated into the Communications Strategy. would be incorporated with the rebranding.

***Target Audience:***
Fish Habitat Partnerships, Partner Coalition members through fishhabitat.org, State, Federal and Tribal Agencies, Federal Caucus members, Congress, OMB, NGO Community, anglers and boaters, conservation community and angling business community.

***Timeline:***
Implementation of the Rebranding of the Action Plan would begin following approval of white paper and would coincide with both the re-launch of our website update and Action Plan Revision at the end of 2011.

**Rebranding Concerns:**

- Costs – There will be little to no cost for updates to messaging and change of logo. Limited costs will include staff time to communicate the changes to the Partners and changes to the website. Costs for website changes will be assumed in our existing contract for our website revision that we are already working on. Staff time aside from the Communications Coordinator will be no more than 20 total hours for Board staff members. Rebranding of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan will not exceed more than 20% of my time through the end of 2011 and through

Casting Call in April 2012.

- FHP related materials and websites – We cannot estimate the costs currently for Fish Habitat Partnerships, but the Board should consider assisting Fish Habitat Partnerships if possible.
- Legislation – With the introduction of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act in the 112th Congress, concerns are addressed with the legislation benefitting the Action Plan, which is behind the larger Partnership. However, we must be prepared to work through any inconsistencies with the language of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act that was just reintroduced in the 112th Congress. As the legislation moves through Congress, we may need to slightly revise the bill language to reflect the rebranding, but in so doing we would have a further opportunity to ensure this federal-state partnership is clearly established as a partnership, not just a FWS program.

- Implementation – This white paper is the outline for rebranding. If this proposal is approved by the Board, a comprehensive strategy will be developed for the Board and the Fish Habitat Partnerships.

**Rebranding Alternatives:**

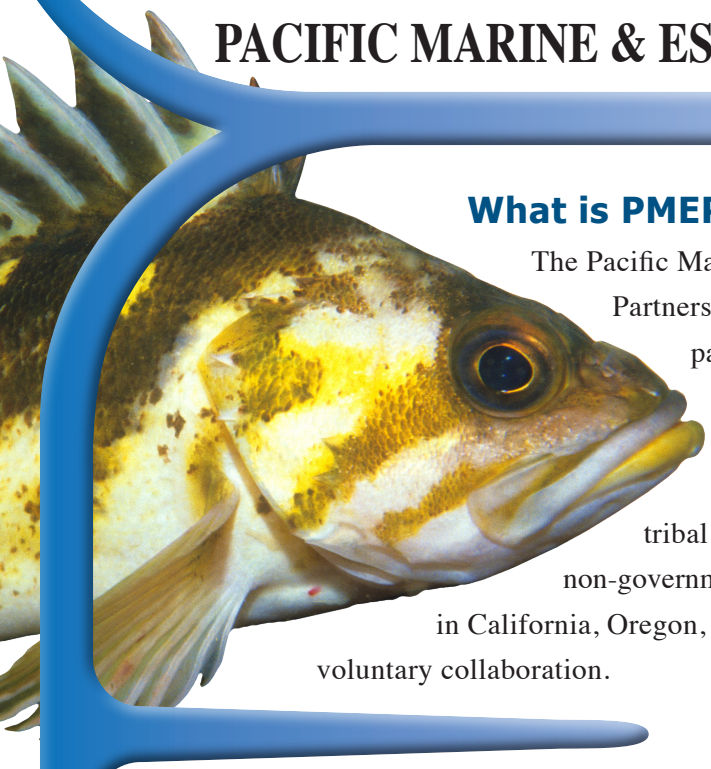
**Alternative 1:** Status Quo. The Board can make a decision to not move forward with approving this rebranding.

**Alternative 2:** Postpone Rebranding. The board could defer this decision until October. This may place unnecessary delays on the Action Plan revision this fall. In addition it would reduce the amount of time to work with Congress on improvements to the legislative language.

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

# FACT SHEET

## PACIFIC MARINE & ESTUARINE FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP



### What is PMEP?

The Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP) is a newly forming partnership focused on West Coast fish habitat in the region's estuaries and nearshore marine waters. We invite local, state, tribal, and federal governments and non-governmental and private organizations in California, Oregon, and Washington to join this voluntary collaboration.


### Goal and Priorities

The goal of PMEP is to protect, enhance, and restore key habitat types within estuaries and nearshore marine environments to sustain healthy native fish communities and support sustainable human uses that depend on them. Our initial priorities are water quality and quantity, juvenile fish habitat, and wetland-subtidal connectivity.

### Scope

We intend to work in the estuaries and nearshore regions off California, Oregon and Washington. Our focus is on multi-species habitat protection and restoration to advance region-wide priorities through local, statewide, and regional action. The partnership will work in a complementary and cooperative fashion with existing efforts and seek to add value to these efforts by catalyzing action and leveraging funding for common priorities.

## History and Activities to Date

The idea for PMEP originated in 2009 when representatives from Oregon, Washington and California agencies and non-governmental entities met to discuss the need to protect and restore habitat for fish species that use estuaries and nearshore marine areas. This group sought and obtained candidate fish habitat partnership status under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, a national program to foster collaborations among local and regional stakeholders to increase fish populations by protecting and restoring key habitats. An Interim Steering Committee was formed in 2010 to articulate the partnership's goal, priorities, governance structure, and science-based strategic actions.

## Join Us

Our partnership is seeking participation by like-minded organizations interested in helping with this voluntary collaborative effort. There are a variety of ways to be involved. You may wish to join as a member organization, write a letter of support, or identify ways for this partnership to collaborate with your organization. Strategic planning will launch in 2011 and involve a review of resource assessments, strategy development and coordination with other entities. We welcome your input on these tasks that will ultimately advance our goal and priorities to protect and restore the important marine fish habitats of the West Coast.

**To learn more or express your interest, visit www.PacificFishHabitat.org**

## PMEP Members

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL**

- Ducks Unlimited
- Marine Conservation Institute
- Surfrider Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy

**PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

- Pacific Coast Joint Venture

**TRIBAL**

- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Makah Nation
- Yurok Tribe

**STATE**

- CA Department of Fish and Game
- OR Department of Fish and Wildlife
- OR South Slough Nat'l. Estuarine Research Reserve
- WA Department of Ecology
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

**FEDERAL**

- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

12-030



**Project Title:** Implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan from Whitewater to Bluewater

**Applicant Information:** Patrick Campfield, Science Director
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St., Arlington, VA, 22201-2196
Phone: 703-842-0740; E-mail: pcampfield@asmfc.org

**Coinvestigators/Partners:**
Scott Robinson, Coordinator, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP)
Emily Greene, Coordinator, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP)
Douglas Stang, Assistant Director, New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) Steering Committee Chair
George Schuler, Director of Conservation Science & Practice and Co-Director, Eastern U.S. Conservation Region Anadromous Fish Program, The Nature Conservancy, ACFHP Steering Committee Chair
Patrick Campfield, Science Director, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Will Duncan, Aquatic Ecologist, Georgia Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, SARP Science and Data Committee Co-Chair
Callie McMunigal, Appalachian Partnership Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Paul Pajak, Regional Coordinator, National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Primary NCN Addressed:** NCN 5. Formation and Operations of Fish Habitat Partnerships to Facilitate National Fish Habitat Action Plan Implementation

**Project Length:** 2 years

**States Benefited:** 27 States: all states in USFWS Region 5 (ME, NH, VT, RI, MA, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, WV, MD, VA); all states in USFWS Region 4, excluding Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, AR, TN, KY); two states in USFWS Region 3 (OH, MO); and two states in USFWS Region 2 (TX and OK); three regional associations of state fish and wildlife agencies - the Northeastern Association of Fish Wildlife Agencies (all states), Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (all states), and Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (three states).

**Estimated Amount of Funding Request:** CY2012 $272,000; CY2013 $272,000; Total Requested; $544,000

**Funding source:** SFR 100%

**Brief Summary of Request**: This project will advance the coordinated implementation of strategic plans and habitat assessments of the ACFHP, SARP, and EBTJV and promote a more cohesive implementation of NFHAP Conservation Strategies and Targets across 27 states. The FHPs will 1) develop appropriate aquatic data sharing methodology, 2) collect and analyze aquatic data at the regional scale, and 3) develop complementary fundraising strategies.

**i. Meeting NCN Needs:** This project will support and enhance the continued operation of and enhance coordination between the ACFHP, SARP, and EBTJV to facilitate National Fish Habitat Action Plan implementation. Funds from this grant will support the following activities for each of the three FHPs: coordination and communication; steering committee operation; fundraising assistance; mutual data compilation, development, and sharing methodologies, to improve habitat condition assessments and project selection criteria, for the three FHPs and their member states and other partners. This project will contribute to the achievement of National Fish Habitat Action Plan goals and objectives, foster implementation of NFHAP Board guidelines, and support coordination between ACFHP, SARP and EBTJV as well as with the NFHAP Board and Science Data Committee and the newly formed Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). In addition, the enhanced coordination and assessment capabilities provided by this project will contribute to achieving NCN needs 1, 3 and 4.

**ii. States Targeted:** 27 States: ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, NJ, PA, OH, DE, WV, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, AR, TN, KY, TX, OK, and MO.

**iii. & iv. Goals and Actions:**
Goal 1: Collectively advance each partnerships habitat assessment through identification of mutual data needs, and data gathering and analysis. Assist the National Fish Habitat Science and Data Committee in improving the 2015 status report by filling major data gaps with regional-specific fish population, habitat, and human impact monitoring data. Actions to achieve Goal 1 include:

- Identify and assemble data pertaining to threats to aquatic habitats, estimate or predict the impacts of these threats on aquatic habitats, and measure or estimate the effects that these habitat impacts have on fish. Collect and compile existing aquatic data, notably fish data, for various purposes depending on the FHP (this has already begun within SARP and EBTJV).
- Collect transform, and package regional-scale habitat and environmental data (e.g. tabular, spatial) across the three FHPs in a form that is compatible with mechanisms developed by the National Science and Data Committee and answer regional-scale questions for the three FHPs.
- Increase engagement and collaboration with other regional conservation efforts including FHPs, Bird Joint Ventures, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), and Climate Science Centers in order to maximize effort in creating and analyzing data and leveraging existing resources and efforts to address key data/knowledge gaps,habitat assessment needs, and additional science needs.

Goal 2: Coordinate ACFHP, SARP, and EBTJV partner engagement and outreach activities to strengthen and expand an already robust base of on-the-ground conservation partners. Better collaboration between individual FHPs will improve leverage of existing outreach and fund-raising efforts across their combined geographic region and allow for expansion of fundraising and marketing efforts to bring in new resources for each partnership, strengthening collective efforts to implement NFHAP. Actions to achieve Goal 2 include:

- Improve communication between FHPs and with partners, key decision makers, potential funders and the general public by developing streamlined communications products that highlight both synergies and distinguishing characteristics across the individual FHPs, to reduce redundancy and build public support.

- Support a shared fund-raising expert to help the FHPs engage the private sector in further leveraging funding support from traditional state and federal funding sources.
- Develop fund-raising strategies that will increase available resources for the three FHPs and their members to implement aquatic habitat conservation efforts in the region.

Goal 3: Retain critical capacity to implement each of the individual FHP's Partnership Strategic Plans by facilitating completion of on-the-ground partner-led fish habitat conservation projects to achieve measurable results towards Action Plan goals and Interim strategies. Actions to achieve Goal 3 include:

- Support regular meetings of the individual FHPs to engage with partners and identify opportunities to implement the FHP Strategic Plans.
- Secure funding for the design, construction, and monitoring phases of on-the-ground aquatic habitat conservation projects and aquatic habitat education efforts.
- Develop a consistent mechanism for evaluating and reporting the benefits of fish habitat conservation projects to a wide range of audiences by monitoring a region-specific variable(s) that will inform and add to the National tracking effort.

**v. Timeline:** These projects will be ongoing through 2012 and 2013.

**vi. Project Budget**

| **Expenses:** | | **2012** | | **2013** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **MSCGP** | **Partner Funds (PF)*** | **MSCGP** | **PF** | **Total MSCGP Costs** |
| Salaries and benefits | FHP Coordination & Communication† | $150,000 | $138,300 | $150,000 | $138,300 | $300,000 |
| Project related expenses | Travel | $30,000 | $12,700 | $30,000 | $12,700 | $60,000 |
| | Contractual (Science & Fundraising) | $75,000 | | $75,000 | | $150,000 |
| Total direct costs: | | $255,000 | $151,000 | $255,000 | $151,000 | $510,000 |
| Indirect Costs | | $17,000 | | $17,000 | | $34,000 |
| **Total Expenses** | | $272,000 | $151,000 | $272,000 | $151,000 | $544,000†† |

*partner match (in-kind support and resources); † covers salaries and benefits for coordinators for each FHP and is expected to be supplemented with funding from other sources; †† funds requested from Sport Fish Restoration

vii. This project will yield several measurable outcomes that will benefit state conservation agencies, including: (1) increasing funding support for on-the-ground projects, (2) reducing data requests to states, (3) reducing variation in the products of the FHPs and LCCs, and (4) paying some travel costs for state agency members to participate in FHPs and related meetings.

viii. These Partnerships cover a large geographic area as well as a large diversity of partner institutions, communities and constituencies. On-the-ground conservation projects will benefit local constituencies and engage them, which should lead to a more supportive constituency for fish habitat conservation work.

ix. The collective effort by three large regional fish habitat partnerships will demonstrate the type of concerted, collaborative efforts that exemplify the intent and purpose of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. We will engage partners and improve fish habitats for brook trout, sea trout, and species in between from Maine to Texas.

**Qualifications:**

**Patrick Campfield, Science Director, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**
Patrick is responsible for oversight of the Commission's Marine Science Program, including stock assessment activities, fisheries data collection programs, and scientific support to the Atlantic coastal states. In addition to the Science Program, Patrick also oversees the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership and the Commission's Habitat Program. He has a B.S. in Marine Biology and M.S. in Fisheries Science and Management from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

**Scott Robinson, Coordinator, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership**
Scott has served as SARP Coordinator since September 2005. Prior to that he was a Fisheries Biologist for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for eleven years. He is currently managing the administration of several grants, including a Multi-State Conservation Grant, for SARP. He received a B.S. degree and M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Clemson University. He is a Certified Fisheries Professional and past President of the Georgia Chapter American Fisheries Society.

**Emily Greene, Coordinator, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership**
Emily coordinates all ACFHP activities, providing daily support to the development and operations of ACFHP by facilitating committee and working group activities, managing contracted projects, identifying funding opportunities, and developing outreach activities. Emily has a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Science from the College of William and Mary and an M.E.M from the Nicholas School of Environment at Duke University.

**Callie McMunigal, Appalachian Partnership Coordinator, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**
Callie currently serves as the EBTJV Coordinator. Since 2008, she has managed the $600,000 of project funds that EBTJV receives each year. She also manages hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants and cooperative agreements each year for habitat projects. Callie has a B.S. and a M.S. in Hydrogeology and a minor in Geographic Information Systems from Florida Atlantic University and 15 years of experience working for state and federal government agencies on large scale partnership efforts.

**George Schuler, Director of Conservation Science & Practice and Co-Director, Eastern U.S. Conservation Region Anadromous Fish Program, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**
George is currently the ACFHP Steering Committee Chair. George is responsible for coordinating diadromous fish policy and on the ground conservation efforts along the Atlantic Coast, developing and implementing measures and evaluations for conservation projects and supervising all areas of conservation science, strategic planning, project management, measures and evaluation for the Eastern New York Chapter of TNC. George has a B.S. in Environmental Science from Allegheny College and a M.S. in Environmental Studies from Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

**Douglas Stang, Assistant Director – Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**
Doug is currently the EBTJV Steering Committee Chair and has served on the EBTJV Steering Committee since the partnership's inception. With the DEC, Doug provides oversight for the agency's broad fish, wildlife, marine and habitat programs delivered by more than 350 staff with

annual program expenditures of $58 million. Doug has a B.S. in Forestry and Wildlife (Fisheries Science) from Virginia Tech and a M.S. in Fishery Biology from Iowa State

MEMORANDUM

To: National Fish Habitat Board

From: Tom Busiahn, Board staff (FWS)

Date: July 26, 2011

Subject: Recommendation for Board action – guidelines for FHP project endorsement

On October 7, 2009, the Board approved *Guidance on the Use of the "National Fish Habitat Action Plan" Brand* (http://www.fishhabitat.org/images/branding/final_nfhap_brand_guid.pdf). The purpose was to establish guidance for the authorized use of the registered trademark "National Fish Habitat Action Plan" and its logo for programs, partnerships, projects, or other entities wishing to use the label or logo.

The Guidance listed three categories of projects that may be termed "NFHAP projects":

1. projects funded by NFHAP sources such as the Board or Federal agency funds designated for NFHAP;
2. projects proposed by FHPs but not funded by NFHAP sources; and
3. projects that are not funded by NFHAP sources or proposed by FHPs, but that address one or more of the strategic priorities of a Board-recognized FHP (as established in the FHP's strategic plan) or of the Board itself (as established by the Final Interim Conservation Strategies and Targets for National Fish Habitat Action Plan and successive updates), and include an evaluation plan that complies with criteria established for Board-funded projects.

With regard to the third category, the Guidance further states: "Projects that fall under category 3 above should apply to the appropriate FHP for endorsement, and once a letter of endorsement is received the project proponents may use the NFHAP brand. ***The Board will establish guidelines for FHPs in issuing such letters of endorsement***" (emphasis added).

At its April 2011 meeting, the Board expressed an interest in more completely capturing the full range of projects that may be termed "NFHAP projects", including projects conducted by the Forest Service or other agencies. On April 27, 2011 the NFHAP Federal Caucus discussed the fact that many projects implemented by Federal agencies address priorities of Fish Habitat Partnerships, and could fall within category 3 above. The Federal Caucus recommended that the National Fish Habitat Board establish guidelines for FHP endorsement of projects, as called for in the Board's branding guidance, and suggests using guidelines adopted by the Atlantic Coastal FHP as a model.

**RECOMMENDATION: Pursuant to the Board's April 2011 discussion and the recommendation of the Federal Caucus, the Board staff recommends approval of the attached "Project Endorsement Template for Fish Habitat Partnerships".**

# DRAFT
## Project Endorsement Template for Fish Habitat Partnerships

The ___ Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP) was recognized by the National Fish Habitat Board under the auspices of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan or NFHAP). The mission, goals and objectives of the Action Plan are reflected in this document.

The ___ FHP will endorse projects that promote fish habitat conservation and that address the strategic priorities of the ___ FHP. Projects that receive endorsement may use the name and logo of NFHAP and the ___ FHP in grant applications, signage, and other informational materials. Endorsed projects will be included in compilations of NFHAP projects (e.g. lists and maps) with credit given to project sponsors.

**Endorsement Criteria**
Requests for endorsement must include a work plan, project proposal, or other document that describes the project, and contact information for an individual who is familiar with the project. The request should specify the current status of the project, i.e. whether funding has been secured, whether all necessary permits have been obtained, and the stage of implementation.

Requests for endorsement must address each of the following criteria. Narrative explanations and supporting documentation are encouraged. [*FHPs are advised to provide a form to guide requesters. An example is available at http://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/endorsedProjects.cfm.]*

- Endorsement of projects by the ___ FHP is guided by the Action Plan's voluntary, non-regulatory approach toward habitat protection, restoration and enhancement. Accordingly, projects mandated under a regulatory program, court order, or other decree will not be considered for endorsement.
- A project must have an evaluation plan (i.e. attainment of project goals will be evaluated) to be considered for endorsement.
- A project must address one or more of the primary issue areas, habitats, or threats identified in the ___ FHP strategic plan.
- A project with the following characteristics will receive favorable consideration:
    - involves diverse and non-traditional partners
    - transferable to other systems within the ___ FHP or nationally
    - results in a long-term solution to the problems addressed (i.e. addresses the causes of and processes behind fish habitat decline)
- Research, assessment, and education projects will be considered if there is a clear connection to a primary issue area, habitat, or threat identified as a strategic priority of the ___ FHP.

**Endorsement Time Frame**
Requests for endorsement must be provided with complete documentation at least four weeks prior to the date that a response is needed from the ___ FHP.

**Endorsement Type**
If approved, a one-page letter of endorsement will be provided by the ___ FHP. Requests for other specific endorsement actions by the ___ FHP should be included in the submission, and they will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If the project will make use of the ___ FHP logo, the intended use should be described in the request.

**Report on FY 2011 Funding - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
**National Fish Habitat Action Plan**

Background

The Fish and Wildlife Service first received funds for the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in FY 2006, when Congress appropriated $1 million ($0.985 million after rescissions) to the Fisheries Program "*to implement on-the-ground, cost-shared habitat restoration projects, identified in the Fisheries Operational Needs System and in direct support of fish habitat partnerships … and … to support continued development of the National Fish Habitat Plan*" (House Report 109-080). The Service reported on how the funds were used at the inaugural meeting of the National Fish Habitat Board in September 2006, and has continued to apprise the Board on the allocation and use of NFHAP funds each year since 2006.

The Service's NFHAP funding for 2006-2012 is shown below. The Administration first requested funds for NFHAP in FY 2007, and Congress has appropriated the Administration's request each year through FY 2011. Each year since 2008, $246,100 has been earmarked for the Green River Basin in Wyoming through the Healthy Lands Initiative. Each year since 2010, $2 million has been earmarked for projects that address adaptation to climate change.

| Fiscal Year | President's Request ($ millions) | Appropriated ($ millions) |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | -- | 0.985 |
| 2007 | 2.985 | 2.985 |
| 2008 | 5.235 | 5.153 |
| 2009 | 5.153 | 5.153 |
| 2010 | 7.153 | 7.153 |
| 2011 | 7.153 | 7.153 |
| 2012 | 7.153 | -- |

In 2006 the Service began developing a policy on use of NFHAP funds to promote consistency within the Service and transparency for our partners. Comments were formally requested in 2007 from the Board and from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The policy was published in March 2009 after intensive scrutiny and revision by the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office. The policy, in draft or final form, has guided Service funding allocation since FY 2007. The policy is accessible online at http://www.fws.gov/policy/717fw1.html.

It is important to note that these funds are the Service Fisheries Program's contribution toward implementing the Action Plan. The Service encourages its Fisheries Program field stations to take an active role in developing and implementing projects that are highly ranked by Fish Habitat Partnerships. While many of the funds are passed through to partners to implement FHP-ranked projects, the funds also support Service staff in each Region, who assist FHPs, some as FHP coordinators, in strategic planning, assessment, outreach, and project implementation. These Fisheries Program operational funds should not be confused with a grant program that may be established by new Action Plan legislation.

Allocation of FY 2011 funds

In FY 2011, the Service received an appropriation of $7.153 million to implement NFHAP, allocated as shown below. All elements in the table were reduced by 0.5% deferred allocation to support the Director's priorities and to address emergency needs.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **National** | | |
| Board priorities | $300,000 | Supports Board communications and science priorities through contracts with AFWA, Michigan State University, AFFTA, USGS, and DJ Case & Associates. ***Activities in 2011 were supplemented with FY10 carryover funds.*** |
| Board staff | $180,905 | Full-time staff support for Board activities, including travel. |
| Coordination & Leadership | $241,206 | Additional Washington Office staff support, space costs, Reservoir FHP coordination, and other operational costs. |
| Subtotal National | $722,111 | |
| **Regional** | | |
| FHP development & operations | $1,005,024 | Supports development and operational costs of Fish Habitat Partnerships, including FHP coordination, meeting and travel expenses, strategic planning, and development of scientific capabilities. |
| Coordination & Leadership | $1,768,848 | Includes staff support, helping FHPs rank and select projects, reporting accomplishments of projects, providing biological expertise and technical assistance to FHPs, and outreach in support of the Action Plan. |
| Healthy Lands Initiative | $247,337 | Projects that address priorities of Fish Habitat Partnerships in the Green River Basin, Wyoming (potentially WNTI and DFHP). |
| Subtotal Regional | $3,021,209 | |
| **Local projects** | | |
| | $603,015 | Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership |
| | $603,015 | Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture |
| | $603,015 | Western Native Trout Initiative |
| | $301,508 | Driftless Area Restoration Effort |
| | $301,508 | Mat-Su Basin Salmon Conservation Partnership |
| | $100,504 | Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership |
| | $90,452 | Desert Fish Habitat Partnership |
| | $90,452 | Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership |
| | $90,452 | Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership |
| | $90,452 | Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership |
| | $90,452 | Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership |
| | $90,452 | Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership |
| | $90,452 | Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership |
| | $90,452 | Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership |
| | $90,452 | Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership |
| | $41,525 | California Fish Passage Forum |
| | $41,525 | Fishers and Farmers Partnership |
| Subtotal projects | $3,409,683 | |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **$7,153,003** | |

For more information:
Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director – Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, 202-208-6394
Tom Busiahn, FWS NFHAP Coordinator, 703-358-2056

**Comparison of National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (S.1201) with Previous Versions**

Senator Lieberman (CT) introduced S.1201, the *National Fish Habitat Conservation Act* on June 15, 2001, along with Sen. Crapo (ID), Tester (MT), Bingaman (NM), Murkowski (AK), Whitehouse (RI), Begich (AK), Cardin (MD), and Udall (CO). S.1201 has minor changes in language and significantly different funding levels from the version reported out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in the 111th Congress in 2010. (For full bill go to http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:S.1201.IS:)

**Language added (in *italics*):**
SEC.2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.
*(a)(14) the State and territorial fish and wildlife agencies play a vital role in –*
*(A) the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the fish communities and aquatic habitats in the respective States and territories; and*
*(B) the development, operation, and long-term success of fish habitat partnerships and project implementation; and …*

SEC.13. EFFECT OF ACT.
(a) WATER RIGHTS. – Nothing in this Act –
(3) *preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water;* or …

**Language deleted (in ~~red strikethrough~~):**
SEC.6. FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.
(e)(2) PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND OR WATER. –
Notwithstanding paragraph (1), Federal funds may be used for payment of 100 percent of the costs of a fish habitat conservation project located on Federal land or water~~, including the acquisition of inholdings within such land or water~~.

**Language changed:**
The due date for the Status and Trends Report required in Sec.11(b) is changed from December 31, 2010 to December 31, 2012. The due date for revision of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan required in Sec.11(c) is changed from December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2013.

**Comparison of authorized funding levels**

| | **111th Congress H.R.2565 and S.1214** | **112th Congress S.1201** |
|---|---|---|
| Sec.15(a)(1) Fish Habitat Conservation Projects | $75,000,000 to FWS, of which 5% shall be for projects carried out by Indian tribes | $7,200,000 to FWS, of which 5 percent shall be for projects carried out by Indian tribes |
| Sec.15(a)(2) National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Office | $3,000,0000 or 25% of the amount appropriated to FWS under paragraph (1), whichever is greater | 5% of the amount appropriated to FWS under paragraph (1) |
| Sec.15(a)(3) Technical and Scientific Assistance | (A) $10,000,000 to FWS<br>(B) $10,000,000 to NOAA<br>(C) $10,000,000 to USGS | (A) $500,000 to FWS<br>(B) $500,000 to NOAA<br>(C) $500,000 to USGS |
| Sec.15(a)(4) Planning and Administrative Expenses | $300,000 or 4% of the amount appropriated to FWS under paragraph (1), whichever is greater | 3% of the amount appropriated to FWS under paragraph (1) |
| Total authorization | $126,750,000 per year | $9,276,000 per year |

# Economics of NFHAP Investments in Habitat 2011

## Desired Outcomes

At the April NFHAP Board meeting, the Board asked for estimates of the value of NFHAP investments for advocacy use, specifically to inform members of Congress to promote the legislation. It is hoped that the Board could endorse this analytical approach, based on Brad Gentner's expert advice, as an advocacy tool. Additionally, the board asked that we look ahead to the next 5 years of NFHAP implementation and suggest additional economic analyses that might be done for other purposes.

## Background

Before I joined the NFHAP Board, I was asked to make a presentation at the June 2010 Board meeting on how NFHAP can utilize economics to improve both advocacy and project evaluation criteria. At the April 2011 meeting, the Board requested that I generate estimates of economic value and jobs created by NFHAP projects since 2006 for use advocating for the legislation introduced by Senator Lieberman's on July 5th. This short document briefly describes the methodology used and the estimates at the national level.

The estimates presented in Table 1 and Table 2 were generated using the benefits transfer methodology and estimates from Charbonneau and Caudill (2010) with valuation and impact esitmates from Hart (2008), Ingraham and Foster (2008), Prato and Heay (2006) and Robbins and Lewis (2008). This technique uses unweighted estimates from other studies from specific habitat restoration projects and applies those esitmates directly to all habitat restoration activities nationwide. The same exact procedure was used for the estimates presente below. Benefits transfer is a commonly used technique in natural resource valuation, however this specific technique taken from Charbonneau and Caudill (2010) is the least sophisticated method typically only used for these sorts of advocacy purposes. All estimates have been inflated to 2010 dollars usign the consumer price index.

This technique focuses on the value of improved habitat and not the economic activity generated by the restoration activities. That is, this analysis assumes the action restores the habitat to full function. It also assumes that those benefits that take years to mature, accrue immediately and society recognizes and utilizes those improvements immediately. If the time to restoration and utilization were incorporated, the estimates would be lower. This estimate does not include the impact associated with the investment in restoration, the value of any stocking activities or the value of species protection. It is possible for GCG to also capture these values, but that would take considerably longer. Because of these other values that have not been included, I feel that the estimates in Table 1 and 2 represent lower bounds on the true value of these improvements.

Overall, I think the esitmates are very favorable and will prove quite useful, particularly if investment and recovery activities are included. While this method is perfectly acceptable for general, nationwide advocacy and outreach use, it is not acceptable for evaluating individual projects because the only source of variation in the estimation procedure is either area or linear distance restored. To produce estimates suitable to use as evaluation criteria, there are two options. First each project could conduct a study of benefits, which, would like be very cost prohibitive. Second, another type of benefits transfer could be utilizes that takes all estimates in the literature and creates a fucntion that values projects based on a whole host of restoration characteristics. Unfortunately, the literature in this area is quite thin and involves no ex post studies, so creating such a funciton may not be possible. Instead, another option relies on a panel of valuation and restoration experts to develop a weighting function to develop economic evaluation criteria. Other benefits and limitations of this analysis will be covered in the presentation to the board in July 2011.

# Economics of NFHAP Investments in Habitat 2011

## Proposal for the NFHAP Board

1. **Approve these estimates for use in advocacy (now).**
2. **Incorporate the value of any stocking or endangered species protection (by end of summer?).**
3. **Develop a methodology and estimate the economic impact of project implementation (long term).**
4. **Work towards developing a stronger methodology to both evaluate projects and develop advocacy values (long term).**

## Estimates

Table 1. Economic Value and Jobs Supported by NFHAP Activities Since 2006.

| Year | Low Value | High Value | Median Value | Median Jobs |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2006** | $63.4 | $70.8 | $67.1 | 1,517 |
| **2007** | $85.0 | $95.0 | $90.0 | 2,035 |
| **2008** | $267.0 | $411.7 | $339.3 | 7,674 |
| **2009** | $99.6 | $110.9 | $105.2 | 2,380 |
| **2010** | $0.0 | $0.0 | $0.0 | 0 |
| **2011** | $0.0 | $0.0 | $0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **$515.0** | **$688.2** | **$601.6** | **13,606** |

In millions of 2010 dollars, except jobs.

Table 2. Economic Value and Jobs Supported by NFHAP Activities by Habitat Type.

| Year | Wetlands | | | Riparian areas | | | In-stream habitat | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | acres | median value | median jobs | acres | median value | median jobs | miles | median value | median jobs |
| **2006** | 70.3 | $537,760 | 12 | 29.79 | $227,879 | 5 | 77.76 | $42,211,796 | 955 |
| **2007** | 148.4 | $1,135,186 | 26 | 17.2 | $131,571 | 3 | 134.51 | $73,018,373 | 1,651 |
| **2008** | 25340.1 | $193,839,182 | 4,384 | 52.9 | $404,659 | 9 | 181.785 | $98,681,473 | 2,232 |
| **2009** | 10.1 | $77,260 | 2 | 12.1 | $92,559 | 2 | 137.02 | $74,380,920 | 1,682 |
| **Year** | **Area opened to fish passage** | | | **Re-opened river habitat** | | | **Uplands** | | |
| | acres | median value | median jobs | miles | median value | median jobs | acres | median value | median jobs |
| **2006** | 0 | $0 | 0 | 44.4 | $24,080,764 | 545 | 85 | $29,640 | 1 |
| **2007** | 0 | $0 | 0 | 28.94 | $15,695,885 | 355 | 26.7 | $9,310 | 0 |
| **2008** | 0 | $0 | 0 | 85.5 | $46,371,742 | 1,049 | 58.74 | $20,483 | 0 |
| **2009** | 0 | $0 | 0 | 56.15 | $30,453,489 | 689 | 702 | $244,789 | 6 |

**References**

Charbonneau, J.J. and J. Caudill. 2010. Conserving America's Fisheries: An Assessment of Economic Contributions from Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation. US Fish and Wildlife Service White Paper. Business Management and Operations, Division of Economics. September 2010. Arlington VA. 42pp.

Hart, Alan J. 2008. The Economic Impact of Recreation Trout Angling in the Driftless Area. Trout Unlimited Report by North Star Economics, Inc.

Ingraham, Molly W. and Shonda Foster. 2008. The Value of Ecosystem Services Provided by the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System in the Contiguous U.S. Ecological Economics.

Prato, Tony and Donald Hey. 2006. Economic Analysis of Wetland Restoration Along the Illinois River. Journal of the American Water Resources Association, February 2006.

Robbins, Jesse L. and Lynn.Y. Lewis. 2008. Demolish It and They Will Come: Estimating the Economic Impacts of Restoring a Recreational Fishery. Journal of the American Water Resources Association, December, 2008.

**National Fish Habitat Board**
**Criteria Development Committee**

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) is an unprecedented effort to build and support strategic partnerships for fish habitat conservation. NHFAP establishes a process that brings partners together, challenges them to identify and collaborate to advance *strategic* conservation priorities, and requires them to measure and report progress. It is this level of commitment that distinguishes NFHAP and its Partnerships from other fish habitat conservation efforts.

To uphold the high standards for NFHAP partnerships it is the policy of the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) that each recognized Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP) demonstrate its level of performance in support of priority fish habitat conservation projects and accomplishing core operational functions (such as coordination, scientific assessment, strategic planning, data management, project administration, communications, and outreach). To complete this task, each FHP will submit a completed performance evaluation form to the Board by April 1, covering the previous calendar year (January-December). A Board appointed panel will review and rate the FHP's performance level for each measure as either high (3 points), moderate (2 points) or low (1 point) and will make recommendations to the Board on how it can best assist each FHP achieve high levels of performance for all evaluation measures.

*Fish Habitat Partnership Performance Evaluation Measures*

1. Addressing FHP strategic priorities (i.e. geographic focus areas, habitat types, key stressors or impairments) and/or NFHAP Final Interim Strategies & Targets with fish habitat conservation projects:

    a. Less than 75% of fish habitat conservation projects undertaken by the FHP in the previous year clearly focused on addressing FHP strategic priorities and/or NFHAP Final Interim Strategies & Targets. (Low performance)
    b. Between 75% and 85% of fish habitat conservation projects undertaken by the FHP in the previous year clearly focused on addressing FHP strategic priorities and/or NFHAP Final Interim Strategies & Targets. (Moderate performance)
    c. More than 85% of fish habitat conservation projects undertaken by the FHP in the previous year clearly focused on addressing FHP strategic priorities and/or NFHAP Final Interim Strategies & Targets. (High performance)

2. Use of effectiveness measures (i.e. indicators that measure short and long term progress toward achieving desired conservation outcomes) for fish habitat conservation projects:

    a. Less than 50% of fish habitat conservation projects undertaken on behalf of the FHP in the previous year clearly identified and employed effectiveness measures. (Low performance)
    b. Between 50% and 75% of fish habitat conservation projects undertaken on behalf of the FHP in the previous year clearly identified and employed effectiveness measures. (Moderate performance)
    c. More than 75% of fish habitat conservation projects undertaken on behalf of the FHP in the previous year clearly identified and employed effectiveness measures. (High performance)

3. Focus on conservation projects that protect vulnerable fish habitats or address causes and processes behind fish habitat decline:

    a. Less than 50% of conservation projects undertaken by the FHP in the previous year clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats or addressing the causes and processes behind fish habitat decline. (Low performance)
    b. Between 50% and 75% of conservation projects undertaken by the FHP in the previous year clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats or addressing the causes and processes behind fish habitat decline. (Moderate performance)
    c. More than 75% of conservation projects undertaken by the FHP in the previous year clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats or addressing the causes and processes behind fish habitat decline. (High performance)

4. Leveraging NFHAP funds in fish habitat conservation projects recommended for funding:

    a. In aggregate, fish habitat conservation projects undertaken by the FHP in the previous year were supported by less than a 1:1 match for the NFHAP funds. (Low performance)
    b. In aggregate, fish habitat conservation projects undertaken by the FHP in the previous year were supported by 1:1 to 2:1 match for the NFHAP funds. (Moderate performance)
    c. In aggregate, fish habitat conservation projects undertaken by the FHP in the previous year were supported by more than a 2:1 match for the NFHAP funds. (High performance)

5. Prioritizing fish habitat conservation projects for NFHAP funding:

    a. The process used to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for NFHAP funding during the previous year was cursory (i.e. no clear rating standards in place). (Low performance)
    b. The process used to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for NFHAP funding during the previous year was adequate. (Moderate performance)
    c. The process used to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects during the previous year was comprehensive and highly competitive (i.e. proposed projects were evaluated comparatively using clear criteria). (High performance)

6. Level of coordination (i.e. consulting, cooperating, collaborating) with neighboring or overlapping FHPs and other regional habitat conservation planning entities:

    a. The level of coordination with neighboring or overlapping FHPs and other regional habitat conservation planning entities during the previous year was limited. (Low performance)
    b. The level of coordination with neighboring or overlapping FHPs and other regional habitat conservation planning entities during the previous year was adequate. (Moderate performance)
    c. The level of coordination with neighboring or overlapping FHPs and other regional habitat conservation planning entities during the previous year was extensive. (High performance)

7. Use of science-based resource condition assessments and/or analysis to identify priority conservation actions:

    a. The FHP demonstrated limited use of science-based resource condition assessments and/or analysis to identify priority conservation actions during the previous year. (Low performance)
    b. The FHP demonstrated adequate use of science-based resource condition assessments and/or analysis to identify priority conservation actions during the previous year. (Moderate performance)
    c. The FHP demonstrated extensive use of science-based resource condition assessments and/or analysis to identify priority conservation actions during the previous year. (High performance)

8. The quality and quantity of outreach aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the FHP's strategic priorities, its conservation activities, and changes in habitat conditions:

    a. The FHP demonstrated limited outreach efforts aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the FHP's strategic priorities, its conservation activities, and changes in habitat conditions during the previous year. (Low performance)
    b. The FHP demonstrated adequate outreach efforts aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the FHP's strategic priorities, its conservation activities, and changes in habitat conditions during the previous year. (Moderate performance)
    c. The FHP demonstrated extensive outreach efforts aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the FHP's strategic priorities, its conservation activities, and changes in habitat conditions during the previous year. (High performance)

9. Coordination of FHP aquatic resources data and regional assessment information with the NFHAP Science and Data Committee for use with the national information system:

    a. Coordination of FHP aquatic resources data and regional assessment information with the NFHAP Science and Data Committee during the previous year was cursory. (Low performance)
    b. Coordination of FHP aquatic resources data and regional assessment information with the NFHAP Science and Data Committee during the previous year was adequate. (Moderate performance)
    c. Coordination of FHP aquatic resources data and regional assessment information with the NFHAP Science and Data Committee during the previous year was extensive. (High performance)

10. Measuring progress and achieving FHP goals & objectives and/or NFHAP Final Interim Strategies & Targets:

    a. The FHP demonstrated limited progress toward achieving FHP goals & objectives and/or NFHAP Final Interim Strategies & Targets during the previous year. (Low performance)
    b. The FHP demonstrated adequate progress toward achieving FHP goals & objectives and/or NFHAP Final Interim Strategies & Targets during the previous year. (Moderate performance)

c. The FHP demonstrated extensive progress towards achieving FHP goals & objectives and/or NFHAP Final Interim Strategies & Targets during the previous year. (High performance)

# Report to the National Fish Habitat Board
# Operational costs of Fish Habitat Partnerships

Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) are the primary work units of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, with full administrative and operational responsibilities for implementing the Action Plan. FHPs need financial, human, and technical resources to fulfill their roles. The National Fish Habitat Board has affirmed this need several times; for example, in May 2008, the Board strongly endorsed a recommendation to "seek solutions to the need for long-term funding support for FHP operations."

## Survey of Fish Habitat Partnerships

In April 2011, in the context of a discussion on a funding allocation framework, the Board asked staff to investigate the operational costs incurred by FHPs. The staff undertook this task realizing that FHPs are coalitions of partners in various stages of organizational development, with a wide variety of means of operational support. They do not have centralized or comprehensive accounting systems or personnel records. Therefore the query sent to the FHPs was simple and flexible.

On June 6, a message was sent to representatives of the 17 recognized FHPs, with copies to FWS Regional NFHAP coordinators and Board staff. FHPs were asked to provide an estimate of annual costs incurred by the FHP, based on the last two years. The information was requested in spreadsheet form, and a sample was provided to promote consistent responses. (See sample on following page.)

## Results

After a reminder sent on June 27, responses were received from 14 of the 17 recognized FHPs. As expected in such an informal survey of diverse coalitions, the results were not totally consistent. For example, some FHPs included indirect costs and travel costs for steering committee meetings, while others did not. Some FHPs responded with information on the past two years, while others, especially newer FHPs in operation for less than two years, provided a more realistic projection of their true costs.

The reported costs generally included salary and fringe benefits for a coordinator (full- or part-time); some included salary and fringe for a GIS technician, outreach staff, and administrative staff. Many included costs for travel, data management, meeting coordination, and communications (e.g. web sites development and maintenance).

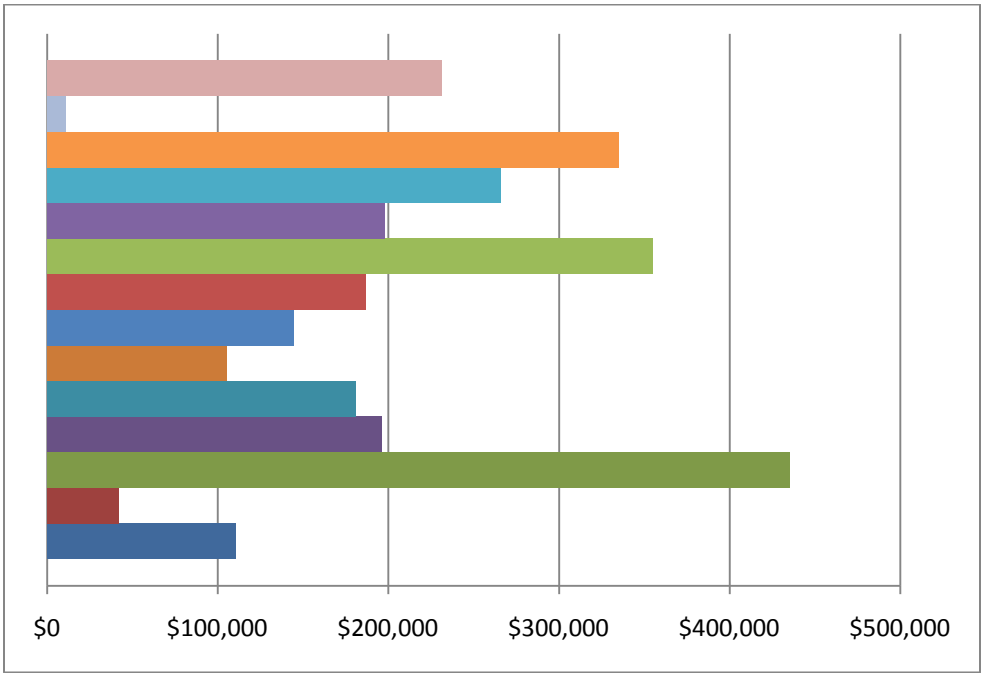
The average total cost was $199,755. The range was from $11,000 (a *very* incomplete estimate) to $434,835 (Figure 2). Discarding the highest and lowest outliers gives an average of $195,895. Given the caveats of this informal survey, the results indicate that the average cost to operate an FHP at the current stage of development is near $200,000 per year.

Report drafted by Tom Busiahn, USFWS, tom_busiahn@fws.gov, 703-358-2056

Figure 1. Sample spreadsheet provided to FHPs with query about operational costs incurred.

| Fish Habitat Partnership Name: | Sample Fish Habitat Partnership | |
|---|---|---|
| FHP Operational Tasks | Supported with Cash | Supported through Inkind Services |
| Salaries - lump sum | 40,000 | |
| Salaries - full-time FHP Coordinator | | Supported by USFWS |
| Salaries - part-time GIS technician | 40,000 | |
| Benefits - lump sum | 10,000 | |
| Benefits - full-time FHP Coordinator | | Supported by USFWS |
| Benefits - part-time GIS technician | 10,000 | |
| Equipment | 6,500 | |
| Travel | 8,000 | |
| Other - lump sum | 15,000 | |
| Communication | 15,000 | |
| Meeting coordination | | Supported by State agency |
| Data management/reporting | | supported by multiple partners |
| Indirect Costs | 17550 | |

Figure 2. Reported annual operational costs of 14 Fish Habitat Partnerships, June 2011.



**National Fish Habitat Board**
***Draft Framework for Allocating NFHAP Funds***

## Option 1

1. During each fiscal year, up to $400,000 in NFHAP funds will be allocated to the Board in support of the national fish habitat assessment, a data delivery system, communications, outreach, and other efforts essential to NFHAP and FHPs. To minimize its use of NFHAP funds the Board will focus on meeting as many needs as possible through other funding and in-kind sources. However, if an essential NFHAP need cannot be funded or addressed by any other means, the amount of NFHAP funding allocated to the Board's annual budget may exceed the $400,000 cap.

2. During each fiscal year, up to $1,700,000 in NFHAP funds will be allocated in support of FHP core operational functions (such as coordination, scientific assessment, strategic planning, data management, project administration, communications, and outreach). The maximum amount an FHP can request annually for this purpose is $100,000. To receive its apportionment of this allocation an FHP must submit a written request to the Board that itemizes the amount requested for each operational function in conjunction with a narrative that clearly describes how the operational funding support will increase conservation delivery results over what could otherwise be achieved.

3. NFHAP funds allocated to support priority fish habitat conservation projects will be awarded through a competitive partnership grant program. To compete for partnership grants, FHPs will submit applications to acquire project funds for up to 3 years. Partnership grant program applications will be evaluated and scored using criteria that are based on the scope of the identified conservation need, FHP effectiveness as a partnership, and the degree to which the proposal helps achieve NFHAP goals. A quantitative scoring process will be used to ensure the evaluation of applications is as objective as possible. Although proposals can span multiple years, exact funding levels may be re-visited annually to allow for adjustments based on changes in the availability of funds.

   To apply for funding from the NFHAP Competitive Partnership Grant Program, an FHP needs to submit an application that contains the following information:

   i. Geographic Scope – what geographic area(s) the FHP plans to work in, which can be a sub-set of the FHP geographic area.

   ii. NFHAP priorities, goals, and objectives – the Board and/or FHP priorities that will be addressed by the projects funded by the grant, including short-term and long-term objectives and goals.

   iii. Types of projects – the types of projects the FHP expects to fund to address the identified priorities, goals, and objectives.

iv. Project Identification – the process that will be used to identify high quality projects, including a proposed timeline for solicitation, project sub-award, and initiation of on-the-ground implementation.

v. Outputs/Outcomes – the anticipated outputs and outcomes the FHP may be expected to produce (acres restored or stream miles to be made accessible to diadromous fish, ecological and socioeconomic outcomes, etc).

vi. Federal Funds Requested & Non-Federal Match Anticipated.

The level of NFHAP Competitive Partnership Grant Program funding an FHP receives will be based on a quantitative scoring process conducted by a Board appointed panel that will evaluate the following factors on a scale of 1 [lowest] to 10 [highest]:

i. The potential of the FHP's proposal to implement significant aquatic habitat protection and restoration projects that offer long-term ecological habitat improvements in ecologically and regionally significant ecosystems.

ii. The potential of the FHP's proposal to provide sustainable, long-lasting benefits including realistic goals for monitoring and maintenance to ensure longevity of restoration actions.

iii. The extent to which the FHP's proposal involves multiple partner groups and operates across jurisdictional boundaries.

iv. The degree to which the individual project selection process used by the FHP is competitive.

v. How the FHP will measure success and ensure that sub awardees develop appropriate evaluation parameters for the ecological aspects of their projects.

vi. The administrative resources and capabilities available to the FHP to support and successfully manage grant management responsibilities, and the FHP's track record on project accountability and tracking.

vii. To what extent the FHP can leverage the Federal investment through matching contributions and/or Partnerships, including the amount of cash or in-kind match available on the national/regional level specifically to support project implementation.

viii. The capacity of the plan's education and outreach methods to advance public awareness of the FHP and NFHAP and transfer knowledge on lessons learned.

**Option 2**

1. During each fiscal year, up to $400,000 in NFHAP funds will be allocated to the Board in support of the national fish habitat assessment, a data delivery system, communications, outreach, and other efforts essential to NFHAP and FHPs. To minimize its use of NFHAP funds the Board will focus on meeting as many needs as possible through other funding and in-kind sources. However, if an essential NFHAP need cannot be funded or addressed by any other means, the amount of NFHAP funding allocated to the Board's annual budget may exceed the $400,000 cap.

2. NFHAP funds that are available to support the operations and projects of the FHPs will be allocated through 3-tier framework. FHPs are authorized to use the allocated funds for operations (coordination, outreach, travel, etc.) and for priority fish habitat conservation projects (habitat restoration, assessment, planning, etc.) to maximize results, with no restrictions on how the funds are split between operations and projects.

    a. Tier 1 consists of funds that will be allocated to each FHP at a level of $75,000/year as stable base funding.

    b. Tier 2 consists of funds that will be allocated annually to support 3-year strategic implementation plans submitted by each FHP. These plans will contain the following information:

        i. The NFHAP and/or FHP priorities, goals, and objectives that plan addresses.

        ii. The approach that will be used to accomplish the identified NFHAP and/or FHP priorities, goals, and objectives.

        iii. The geographic area(s) covered by the plan.

        iv. The types of operational functions and/or projects to be funded under the plan and how each identified item relates to implementing the plan.

        v. The process that will be used to identify high quality projects, including a proposed timeline for solicitation, project sub-award, and initiation of on-the-ground implementation.

        vi. The anticipated outputs and outcomes the plan is expected to produce (acres restored or stream miles to be made accessible to diadromous fish, ecological and socioeconomic outcomes, or other measures).

        vii. The education and/or outreach method(s) that will be used to disseminate information on the plan's outputs and outcomes.

viii. The FHP's resources and capabilities to administer the NFHAP funds allocated to the plan.

ix. The amount of NFHAP funds requested in support of the plan and the anticipated amount of matching funds.

The minimum amount of Tier 2 funding an FHP would receive is 1% of the available funding and the maximum is 20% of the available funding. The level of NFHAP funding an FHP receives in support of its 3-year strategic implementation plan will be based on a quantitative scoring process conducted by a Board appointed panel that will evaluate the following factors on a scale of 1 [lowest] to 10 [highest]:

i. The potential of the plan to implement priority conservation actions that would result in long-term improvements in ecologically and regionally significant aquatic systems.

ii. The potential of the plan to provide sustainable, long-lasting benefits including realistic goals for monitoring and maintenance to ensure longevity of conservation actions.

iii. The extent to which the plan involves multiple partner groups and operates across jurisdictional boundaries.

iv. The degree to which the individual project selection process used by the FHP is competitive.

v. The capabilities of the measures being used to demonstrate the effectiveness of conservation actions implemented under the plan.

vi. The level of administrative resources and capabilities available to the FHP to support and successfully manage grant-type funding, and the FHP's track record on project accountability and tracking.

vii. The capacity of the plan's education and outreach methods to advance public awareness of the FHP and NFHAP and transfer knowledge on lessons learned.

viii. The extent the plan leverages the investment of NFHAP funds through matching contributions and/or use of partnerships, including the amount of cash or in-kind match available to support implementation of conservation actions.

c. Tier 3 consists of funds that will be allocated to FHPs for a 3-year period based on past performance, as evaluated by application of the *Fish Habitat Partnership*

*Performance Evaluation Measures* approved by the Board. FHPs that receive less than 50% of the performance evaluation measure points will be eligible for 1% of the available funds; FHPs that receive between 50% to 75% of the available performance evaluation measure points will be eligible for up to 10% of the available funds; and, FHPs that receive more than 75% of the performance evaluation measure points will be eligible for up to 20% of the available funds.

For the initial round of allocation, 90% of the available funds will be apportioned to Tier 2 funding and 10% to Tier 3 funding. As FHPs performance records mature, this funding allocation will shift to apportioning 75% of the available funds to Tier 2 funding and 25% to Tier 3 funding in the second round, and then to a 50/50 split between Tier 2 and Tier 3 funding in the third and subsequent rounds.

An example of how the 3-tier framework allocates NFHAP funds to support FHPs is offered below:

- $3,400,000/year available to support the operations and projects of 17 FHPs
- Tier 1 funding (17 FHPs x $75,000) = $1,275,000/year, leaving $2,125,000 for Tier 2 & 3 funding
- Tier 2 funding (90% x $2,125,000) = $1,912,500/year, leaving $212,500 for Tier 3 funding
- Tier 3 funding = $212,500/year

Under this example:

The minimum amount of NFHAP funding that an FHP would receive is $75,000 (Tier 1 funding) + $19,125 (1% of Tier 2 funding) + $2,125 (1% of Tier 3 funding) = $96,250/year.

The maximum amount of NFHAP funding that an FHP would receive is $75,000 (Tier 1 funding) + $382,500 (20% of Tier 2 funding) + $42,500 (20% of Tier 3 funding) = $500,000/year.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Washington

ORDER NO. XXXX

SIGNATURE DATE:

Subject: Implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Sec. 1 **Purpose and Authority.** This Order is issued by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretaries) pursuant to [Insert Authority], and other federal law. The purpose of this order is to promote collaborative, science-based conservation by ensuring that the component agencies, bureaus and offices of the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Agriculture, (Departments) with direct or indirect responsibilities for aquatic habitat conservation, protection, and restoration, support efforts to implement the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations and subject to the availability of funds. This Order does not duplicate existing authorities related to coastal, marine and aquatic habitat; it is complementary, but independent.

Sec. 2 **Background**. Aquatic habitat supports fish, shellfish, amphibians, and other aquatic life that is important to the Nation's biological diversity, the economies of local communities and the Nation, and recreational use and enjoyment by millions of Americans. However, coastal, marine, and freshwater habitats have been damaged and destroyed by human activities. These losses have caused significant declines in fish populations throughout the United States, and have resulted in substantial economic losses. Our Departments have substantial interests in reversing declines in fish populations and habitats by working with partners in state and tribal government, with local government, and with not-for-profit organizations, private entities, and individuals.

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is national in scope and addresses fish habitat from the interior to the oceans. It supports cooperative, proactive fish habitat protection and restoration goals at multiple geographic scales. Through fish habitat protection and restoration, jobs are created and recreational and commercial fishing communities will benefit. The voluntary partnership approach embodied in the Action Plan complements Federal and State regulations that protect aquatic habitat. Communication and coordination among our Departments, whose activities affect aquatic habitat, will help to improve the quality of our stewardship and the health of our Nation's aquatic habitat.

Sec. 3 **Definitions**.

a. National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) - the *National Fish Habitat Action Plan* dated April 24, 2006 and any subsequent revisions or amendments to that plan.

b. National Fish Habitat Board - a governing board established by the Action Plan to promote, oversee and coordinate implementation of the Action Plan.
c. Federal Caucus - a working group open to all Federal agencies, chaired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, organized to coordinate Federal participation in implementation of the Action Plan.
d. Fish Habitat Partnership – an entity designated by the National Fish Habitat Board as a Fish Habitat Partnership that coordinates the implementation of the Action Plan at a regional level. A Fish Habitat Partnership may include among its members state, tribal, federal, local, non-profit, or private entities or individuals.
e. Aquatic communities – aquatic organisms living or growing in, on, or near freshwater, estuarine or marine habitats and interacting with one another in a specific region under relatively similar environmental conditions.
f. Aquatic habitat - any area on which an aquatic organism depends, directly or indirectly, to carry out the life processes of the organism, including an area used by the organism for spawning, incubation, nursery, rearing, growth to maturity, food supply, or migration, including an area adjacent to the aquatic environment if the adjacent area:
    1) contributes an element, such as the input of detrital material or the promotion of a planktonic or insect population providing food, that makes fish life possible;
    2) protects the quality and quantity of water sources;
    3) provides public access for the use of fishery resources; or
    4) serves as a buffer protecting the aquatic environment.
g. Aquatic organisms – species that depend upon aquatic habitat for one or more stages of their life cycle, such as spawning, incubation, nursery, rearing, growth to maturity, food supply, or migration, including but not limited to fishes, shellfish, amphibians, turtles, and aquatic invertebrates.
h. Conservation - activities that protect, sustain, and, where appropriate, restore and enhance, populations of fish, wildlife, or plant life or a habitat required to sustain fish, wildlife, or plant life or its productivity.

Sec. 4 **Responsibilities.** To achieve the objectives of the Order, the heads of all agencies, bureaus and offices within the Department of the Interior, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the Department of Commerce, and the heads of all agencies, bureaus and offices within the Department of Agriculture, shall be responsible for ensuring that the following principles are followed:

**Principle 1. The Departments Shall Support Implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan**

The Departments recognize that the Action Plan is a partnership with state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, local agencies, not-for-profit organizations, private entities, and individuals to improve the quality and quantity of fish habitat in the various states, and agree to support partners in their efforts to the extent practicable.

The Departments shall ensure their actions, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, and in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations, are consistent with and support the priorities of the Action Plan. In so doing, the

Departments can improve the efficiency of Federal government operations and ensure effective coordination with state, tribal, and local agencies, not-for-profit organizations, private entities, and individuals.

**Principle 2. The Departments Shall Participate in National Fish Habitat Action Plan Forums**

The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, and the Chief of the USDA Forest Service shall participate as members of the National Fish Habitat Board.

Each of the component agencies, bureaus and offices of the Departments shall as appropriate to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, and in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations:

a) Participate as members of the Federal Caucus at policy and technical levels to coordinate Federal participation in implementation of the Action Plan in support of state agency-led efforts to achieve the goals of the Action Plan.
b) Review its policies, procedures, resources, and capabilities to further the goals of the Action Plan, and revise these where appropriate to support the goals.
c) Incorporate the goals of the Action Plan in its own plans for managing Federal lands and water resources, during regularly scheduled reviews of such plans.
d) Contribute materials, services, or matching funds to projects that support the goals of the Action Plan and Fish Habitat Partnerships established under the Plan.
e) Contribute services and funds for the science and data initiatives of the National Fish Habitat Board.
f) Prioritize the goals of the Action Plan when awarding loans, grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.
g) Consider the goals of the Action Plan when issuing permits to States or private entities when such permits may influence aquatic habitat.
h) Collect, manage, analyze and share data and contribute information technology expertise to build or integrate databases to assess aquatic communities, habitat conditions and outcomes of projects.
i) Encourage and support efforts by non-federal partners to implement the Action Plan, including the fulfillment of the Federal trust responsibilities to Native American governments.
j) Contribute to the development of informational materials for stakeholders and the general public to raise awareness of the values of aquatic habitat and the Action Plan.
k) Coordinate its activities in support of the Action Plan with other interagency efforts, including but not limited to Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, the Coral Reef Task Force, and the National Ocean Policy.
l) Coordinate its activities with States, Territories, Tribes, and local governments to meet the goals of the Action Plan.

Sec. 5 **Implementation**. This Order shall be implemented by all agencies, bureaus, and offices of the Departments, as applicable.

Sec. 6 **Reporting**. Within 180 days from the date of this order, and at two-year intervals thereafter, all bureaus, agencies, and offices implementing this order will report to their respective Secretary on agency accomplishments and progress in support of state-led efforts to achieve the goals of the Action Plan.

Sec. 7 **Effective Date**. This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first.

_____
Secretary of the Interior

_____
Secretary of Commerce

_____
Secretary of Agriculture

**Proposed Context Schema and Timeline for Setting National Fish Habitat Board Priorities**

The National Fish Habitat Board has a unique role to play in implementing the objectives of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan or NFHAP). The Board should establish its own priorities to inform the efficient use of limited Board resources. The Board should develop those priorities in the context of a shared understanding of the contributions of the various entities in implementing NFHAP objectives and the current process for revising the Action Plan.

Background:
At the April 2011 Board meeting, the Board discussed setting "national priorities". The Board declined to adopt the "Interim Strategies" as national priorities, after representatives from Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) stated that they did not use the interim strategies or find them helpful. Board members asked that staff address the following questions for further Board discussion at the July 2011 Board meeting. These questions include 1) for whom is the Board setting priorities and 2) what are the resources (staff, financial, etc.) for which the Board is setting priorities?

Concurrent with the effort to clarify the scope of Board priorities, other efforts are underway that contribute to setting strategic direction for Action Plan activities. These include 1) development of a "NFHAP Funding Allocation Framework," to guide how funds will be allocated to the Board and the FHPs and 2) initiation of revisions to the objectives contained in the Action Plan.

Proposal for Board Consideration and Discussion:
The following proposal

- Offers a context schema that depicts the relationship between the various priority-setting activities and participating entities involved in Action Plan revision and implementation.
- Recommends a near-term focus for Board priority setting within this schema.
- Suggests a timeline for setting Board priorities.

*Proposed schema for overall NFHAP strategic planning context*:

This proposed schema (see below) depicts a tiered approach for establishing priorities for the different NFHAP entities implementing the Action Plan. Objectives set the overall strategic direction for all NFHAP partners. Priorities are needed to establish the relative importance of actions to take or action areas to focus on above any others to achieve the objectives. Priorities will help the Board decide what to do with existing resources, what to continue doing and what to drop if resources become scarcer, and what new actions to take when additional resources become available.

This proposed schema depicts the multiple entities involved in the strategic planning and implementation of the Action Plan. Each entity plays a unique role in accomplishing the objectives of the Action Plan. The primary entities include the Board, the Fish Habitat Partnerships, and individual organizations and agencies. The Board is positioned to influence strategic direction of NFHAP implementation in several ways: 1) leading and approving the revision of the Action Plan including its new objectives, 2) setting priorities for the Board's own activities, 3) initial approval and subsequent evaluation of FHPs, and 4) approving a Funding Allocation Framework.

*Recommended focus and scope for near term Board priority setting*

- The Board should focus on setting priorities for its own actions to achieve the objectives identified in the revised Action Plan.
- The Board priorities should:
  - Be informed by the unique roles of the Board as described in the Board Charter and Action Plan. (For example, establish national partnerships that provide funding and other resources, establish national measures of success and evaluation criteria)
  - Inform how the Board allocates its limited resources.
  - Consider both the resources that have been appropriated for Board use and resources that Board members bring to the table to execute Board functions.

*Proposed Timeline for setting Board Priorities*:

July 2011:

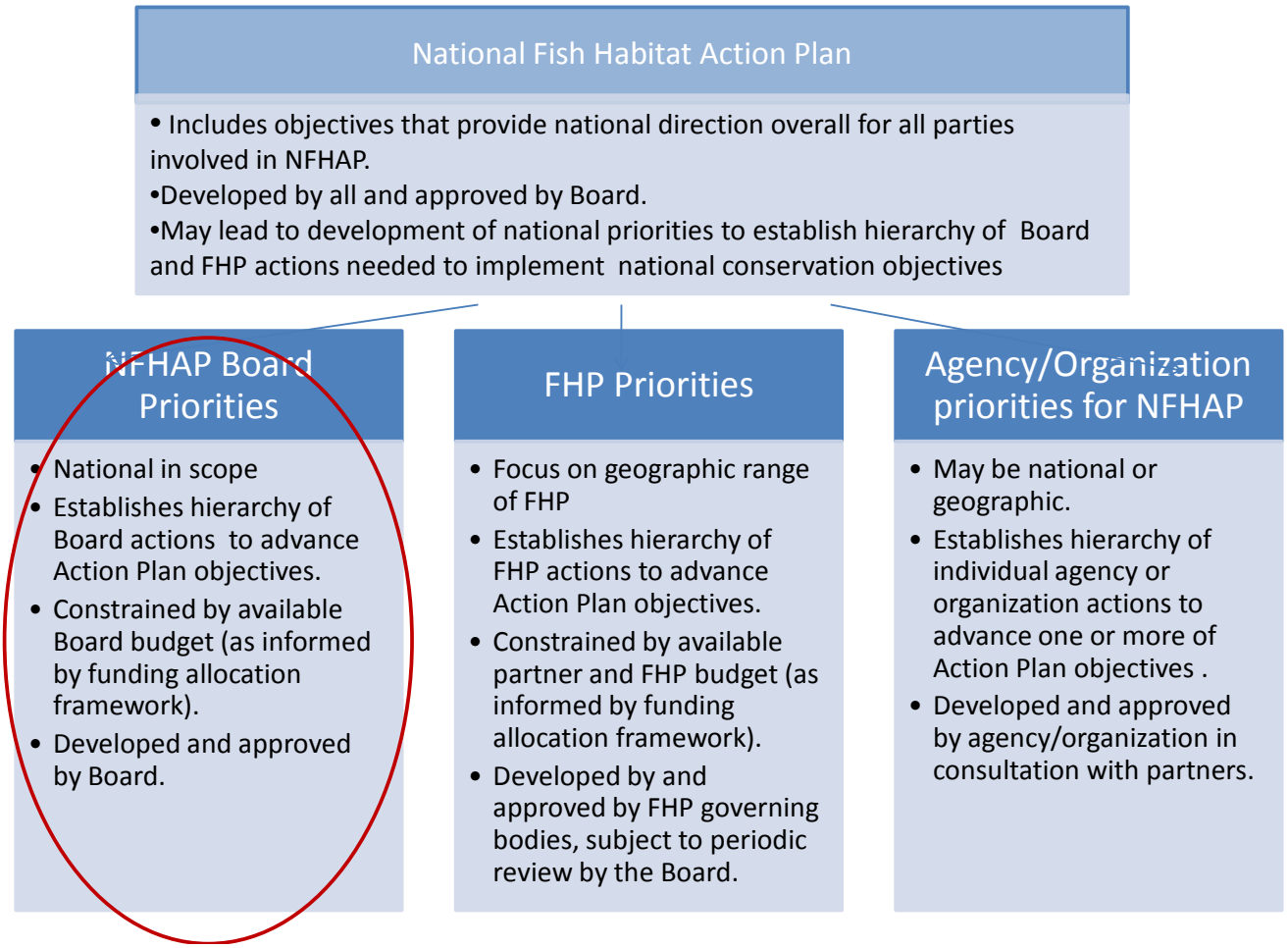
- Agree to proposed schema (see below) for overall NFHAP strategic planning and focus of near term Board priority-setting.

October 2011:

- New action plan draft objectives submitted for Board approval.
- Funding allocation framework submitted for Board approval.
- Review and discuss draft Board priorities that respond to draft action plan objectives

January 2011 (Board budget conf call):

- Adopt Board priorities for desired time period.


National Fish Habitat Action Plan
• Includes objectives that provide national direction overall for all parties involved in NFHAP.
•Developed by all and approved by Board.
•May lead to development of national priorities to establish hierarchy of Board and FHP actions needed to implement national conservation objectives
NFHAP Board Priorities
• National in scope
• Establishes hierarchy of Board actions to advance Action Plan objectives.
• Constrained by available Board budget (as informed by funding allocation framework).
• Developed and approved by Board.
FHP Priorities
• Focus on geographic range of FHP
• Establishes hierarchy of FHP actions to advance Action Plan objectives.
• Constrained by available partner and FHP budget (as informed by funding allocation framework).
• Developed by and approved by FHP governing bodies, subject to periodic review by the Board.
Agency/Organization priorities for NFHAP
• May be national or geographic.
• Establishes hierarchy of individual agency or organization actions to advance one or more of Action Plan objectives .
• Developed and approved by agency/organization in consultation with partners.

## Effective Fish Habitat Conservation: Assessment, Protection, and Rehabilitation, Part 1
## Wednesday, September 7, 2011 1:15 – 5:15

**The Economics of Habitat Protection**
Brad Gentner
President
Gentner Consulting Group

Often in the federal budgetary process, habitat restoration receives more attention and more funding than habitat protection. This is understandable as restoration creates jobs and is sexier creating photo opportunities for politicians and federal officials holding shovels and wearing hardhats at some blighted streamside. However, habitat protection generally provides a more cost effective way to protect the same ecosystem services targeted by restoration projects. All other things equal, if the end result is maintaining ecosystem function at a certain level it makes the most sense to prevent degradation of a function watershed than to restore function in a degraded habitat for many reasons. One, not all restoration activities are successful at restoring full watershed function. Two, restoration activities are extremely expensive while protection may also be costly but may also be relatively inexpensive. However, rarely are all other things equal when talking about landscape level habitat issues. Instead, managers are faced with balancing multiple criteria to protect or restore the most ecosystem services they can for their limited dollars. In this light, perhaps it makes more sense to view protection on one end and restoration on the other end of a continuum encompassing all ecosystem services provided by habitat. This presentation will explore the conditions under which protection is more cost effective than restoration in a general sense. Additionally, this presentation will develop continuum of watershed quality from fully functional to impaired and discuss how economic criteria can be used to rank protection and restoration goals.

**Market-Based Approaches to Aquatic Habitat Protection**
Dawn Browne
Mananger, Conservation Programs
Ducks Unlimited

The wetland and associated upland habitats that Ducks Unlimited works to conserve provide multiple benefits to society including improved flood control, clean water, recreational opportunities, and climate regulation. As a whole, these benefits are often referred to as "ecological goods and services." However, there is disagreement regarding the environmental and economic value of ecosystem services. Although awareness of the benefits provided by natural resources is rapidly improving, ecosystem capital and its flow are still poorly understood. Many efforts to inform decision-makers of current versus future costs and benefits of conservation now involve applying scientific knowledge to economic principles. In some cases, this has lead to the formation of environmental markets which translates the consequences of our choices to impact natural systems into comparable units of impact on human well-being. These markets may provide new financial opportunities for landowners to practice conservation on private lands.

Environmental markets include systems for buying and selling ecosystem services that have been converted into standardized units of trade. Restoring, protecting and enhancing habitats provide ecological resource values that may qualify as environmental "credits" that can be sold in various trading markets. The regulatory drivers that create and sustain these markets and the frameworks for transacting credits continue to evolve. Environmental credit trading has been established or is emerging for markets such as greenhouse gas emissions, water quality, habitat and wetland mitigation banking. Habitat restoration and protection can help mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration while helping wildlife and people adapt to its effects. Properly implemented wetland mitigation banks can provide an efficient and ecologically resilient solution to unavoidable wetland losses. Conservation practices on private lands that improve watershed health may be eligible for credits that can be sold to regulated pollution sources through water quality credit trading programs. Understanding the regulatory and scientific underpinnings of these markets and the role of various stakeholders is key to successful participation and positive conservation outcomes.

**Multi-Benefit Approaches to Habitat Protection: Strategies that work for People and Nature**

Mark P. Smith
Director. North America Freshwater Team
The Nature Conservancy

How does one conserve the water supply for the Everglades in one of the largest cattle ranching areas of the country or how does one protect 90 miles of river in the middle of Indiana farm country in a way that benefits people and nature? How can development also benefit the conservation of streams and wetlands in Virginia? How can coastal habitat restoration actually improve local agriculture in Puget Sound? This presentation will provide an overview of four projects being undertaken by The Nature Conservancy and partners to protect and restore freshwater and coastal habitats in ways that benefit both nature and the people. By looking at on-going projects in Florida, Indiana, Virginia and Washington we'll outline how a systems-scale approach to conservation that includes explicit goals for achieving multiple benefits can advance habitat conservation in ways that account for the needs of people and provide for sustainability of natural resources.

**Protection as a priority to mitigation or restoration: habitat protection strategies and actions throughout the historical range of eastern brook trout**

Douglas Stang
Assistant Director, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Habitat restoration projects receive much notoriety as on-the-ground work is very visible, "makes for good press," and engenders good will among project participants. Although limited funding is available for restoration efforts, most such projects are costly and evaluation of the mitigation effort can only be accomplished once, and if, system functions are restored. The hierarchy of habitat protection/

restoration: “Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate” prioritizes the protection of unaltered natural habitats over restoration of impacted habitats. Aquatic habitats in a natural state have higher intrinsic value and system function and protection of these habitats makes good economic sense. Agencies and partners are developing and implementing practices that protect aquatic habitats with certain habitat types receiving higher levels of protection or higher priority for protective actions. Throughout its historic range in the eastern United States, brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) represent quality coldwater habitats and serve as an indicator of well-functioning coldwater communities. In a recent assessment, less than 10% of the watersheds throughout the brook trout’s historic range were deemed “intact.” Protection of habitats that support self-sustaining brook trout populations is a priority of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) as a primary EBTJV goal is to protect the “best of the best.” While acquisition of waters and surrounding watersheds is often viewed as the foremost habitat protection action, many other programs are being developed, refined, and implemented that effectively protect aquatic habitats. Many States have regulatory programs that protect habitats via implementation of a variety of standards such as: maintenance of minimum in-stream flows, specification of timing and magnitude of water releases, establishment of windows for allowable in-stream and stream bank work, and specification of stream crossing such that structures are hydraulically and geomorphically transparent. In addition to land purchase, conservation easements and cooperative agreements help protect aquatic and riparian habitats – sometimes in perpetuity. In conjunction with conservation partners, agencies are developing and implementing best management practices for landowners to avoid or minimize impacts to brook trout habitat. This presentation will illustrate the types of habitat protection efforts used by EBTJV partners to help ensure the long-term sustainability of eastern brook trout populations.

**The Stronghold Approach to Wild Salmon Conservation**

Mark Trenholm
Director
North American Programs
Wild Salmon Center

Wild salmon populations have generally been declining in the southern range of North America since the mid 1800s. More than 29% of the estimated 1,400 populations of native salmon and trout in the contiguous western United States have been lost (Gustafson et al. 2007), and roughly one third are currently listed under the Endangered Species Act. As efforts to recover these populations continue, significant threats to healthy wild salmon ecosystems persist, threatening the long term viability of currently strong populations. Declines in these strong populations could not only limit the effectiveness of recovery efforts, but also reduce the resilience of populations to environmental changes triggered by climate change, population growth, and other challenges.

To ensure that currently healthy populations do not suffer the same declines as listed and extirpated populations, a consortium of state and federal agencies, private organizations, and tribes has convened to establish the North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership. The Stronghold Partnership is a

voluntary, incentive-based effort intended to supplement ongoing ecosystem protection and restoration efforts by promoting the conservation of the healthiest remaining wild Pacific salmon ecosystems – salmon strongholds – and the wild populations which rely on them. The core of the Partnership's work focuses on defining and advancing "the stronghold approach", which seeks to: 1) scientifically identify a network of salmon strongholds; 2) promote the development and implementation of prevention-based strategies to protect strongholds from emerging threats; and 3) examine the root causes of limiting factors in strongholds and support innovative approaches to address them. This presentation will describe the stronghold approach, underscoring its value as the cornerstone of an effective salmon conservation strategy.

**Protecting Forested Watersheds for Sustainable Fish Habitats**
Michael Duval
Lakes Management Coordinator
Section of Fisheries Management
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources

Lakes within the forested portion of Minnesota have the highest water quality in the state. The exceptional water quality in these lakes provides excellent fish habitat that consists of clear water, abundant rooted macrophytes, oxygenated hypolimnia, and periphyton-free spawning substrates. Significantly lower rates of nutrient export from forest land, compared to urban and agricultural lands, maintain relatively low concentrations of total phosphorus in these lakes. Protecting forested landcover in the watersheds of these lakes is critical for maintaining high water quality. Unfortunately, forested areas near lakes are in high demand for development and nutrient exports are expected to increase. Fortunately, large funding sources are now available in Minnesota through a dedicated sales tax for conservation (~$180 M US per year) making watershed protection efforts possible at a landscape level. One conservation tool, working forest conservation easements, has the potential to provide watershed-scale protection for a large number of lakes in Minnesota. The economic costs of such large-scale protection will be explored.

**Engaging Landowners for Stream Protection**
Christopher Vitello
Chief, Fisheries Division
Missouri Department of Conservation

The Fishers & Farmers Partnership (Partnership) for the Upper Mississippi River Basin is a self-directed group of interested, non-governmental agricultural and conservation organizations, tribal organizations and state and federal agencies working to achieve the Partnership's mission *"…* to support locally-led projects that add value to farms while restoring aquatic habitat and native fish populations*."* The Partnership is a project organized and recognized under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) and brings science and technical expertise to locally-directed projects throughout the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The Partnership fosters collaborative conservation projects between farming landowners

and natural resource managers that use innovative strategies for land use and waterway practices designed to benefit farms and fish, and to restore aquatic habitats. Many of the early successes of the Partnership have been realized in the Meramec River Basin in Missouri, southwest of St. Louis. Landowner committees govern and guide watershed efforts. Local farmers and ranchers and agency staff work together to install best management practices to protect water quality, restore riparian forests and enhance aquatic habitats. Additional efforts to expand the program throughout the Upper Mississippi River Basin, most recently in Iowa and Minnesota, are ongoing and expanding. Private landowners are the key to the success of the Partnership. Conservation projects are succeeding beyond what has been experienced in the past, and landowner commentaries clearly express the value of efforts that bring them and agency personnel together as equal partners to reach a goal of healthy fish, healthy streams and healthy farms.

**Protecting Habitat Through State Programs: NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program**

Elaine Vaudreuil
NOAA CELCP

NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) was created to protect lands with significant ecological, conservation, recreational, historic and aesthetic values within coastal areas. To identify lands that reflect these values, participating states and territories develop conservation plans that identify the priority lands and values within the state or territory to be protected through the program, the geographic scope for their efforts (e.g. within their coastal watersheds, or a smaller area), and, wherever possible, the areas where those priority lands can be found on the landscape. This presentation will discuss the approach used by many states in developing their plans (including a "green infrastructure" approach), as well as the kinds of lands and habitats they identify that support fisheries and protected species.

**Using Lakeshore Conservation Easements as a Cost Effective Method to Protect Fish Habitat**

John Ringle
Director
Cass County Environmental Services

Located in North-central Minnesota, Cass County has over 500 high quality lakes that are critical habitat for fish and wildlife, with several over 10,000 acres in size. These lakes comprise over half of Minnesota's naturally reproducing Muskellunge lakes include Leech Lake, Cass Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish. With a 28% population growth in Cass County between 1990 and 2000, the future of these natural resources is threatened by increasing shoreland development. In 2008, Cass County did GIS mapping of 55 of the highest quality lakes over 500 acres in the county. The project identified shoreland parcels with "high conservation potential" and revealed approximately 38% of shorelands in Cass County are still privately owned and undeveloped or large parcels minimally developed.

Using permanent conservation easements, we are targeting landowners of the already identified sensitive, undeveloped shorelands as donors to permanently protect these highest and most sensitive lakeshores in Cass County. A Land Conservation Specialist works with interested landowners to encourage donation of permanent easements using payment of all closing costs including appraisals, legal and financial advice, and title work as incentives. Costs average about $15,000 per easement. In 2010, Cass County Environmental Services secured 5 donated easements on 557 acres and 11,500 feet of shoreline worth $5.7 million. The average cost was $7.39 per shoreline foot for permanent protection and allowing property to remain on the tax roles versus a current acquisition cost of $1500-$3000 per foot, depending on the lake. Permanent protection through donated easements can be more cost effective than acquisition of riparian lands or restoration of impaired water quality. We are currently implementing a project, funded by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund, to place donated conservation easements on 12-15 riparian properties, protecting 1200-1500 acres of sensitive and priority shorelands in Cass County. Plans are well underway to expand this program to shorelands in Minnesota outside of Cass County.

**The Wisconsin Lakeshore Restoration Project**

Patrick O. Goggin
Lake Specialist
University of Wisconsin-Extension Lakes, College of Natural Resources

For many of us, our lakeshore represents the sweep of one's heart, a place filled with memories of growing up, catching fish, watching frogs, and whiling away the sweet summer days. However, during the past few decades especially, the domestication of our shoreland buffers has altered the character of our shores in damaging ways. This fact was highlighted in the 2007 Environmental Protection Agency's National Lakes Assessment. But do not despair, change is afoot! Shoreline property owners are returning their shorelines to a natural state. Their shoreland rehabilitation projects have come in all shapes and sizes. They have ranged from minimalist efforts that let the shore restore naturally to more sophisticated treatments that involve significant planning, bioengineering or other erosion control treatments, and installation of substantial native plant material. Over the last five years researchers working with the Wisconsin Lakeshore Restoration Project have been trying to get some answers related to the effectiveness of this shoreland restoration work. They seek to quantify the ecological and water quality benefits associated with buffer renewal by measuring the value of fish and wildlife habitat restoration. It is a collaborative partnership that includes shoreland property owners, lake groups, state and county agencies, local plant nurseries, academia, media outlets, and other partners. The project compares and contrasts habitat and water quality data between developed and undeveloped lakes that were identified by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource researchers for the study. These pairings of lakes share similar lake characteristics like chemistry, size, type, morphology, and landscape positioning. Through the project partnership, four developed lakes in the study are getting significant stretches of shoreland buffer restored—1000+ linear feet. Baseline data from these lakes is then compared to untreated controlled

sites on the same lake and to reference sites on undeveloped lakes. This project started in 2007 with several shoreland buffer restorations on Found Lake in Vilas County, Wisconsin, U.S.A. and it has continued on with sites on Moon Lake in 2008, and other Vilas County lakes in 2009 and 2010. A blueprint for success involving ten time-tested themes of effective shoreland rehabilitation gleaned from this project and others around the state will also be shared. These themes are transferable to other lake enthusiasts interested in practicing the emerging art and science of shoreland rehabilitation.

**Setting a Path for Urban Restoration Projects—Assessment, Prioritization, Planning, and Implementation at the City of Issaquah, WA**

Kerry Ritland, P.E.
Surface Water Manager
Engineering Department
City of Issaquah Public Works

Salmon and preservation of riparian resources have long been legacies of the City of Issaquah, a growing Seattle suburb in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. In 2005 the City created a WaterWays Planning Team, including members of the Public Works, Planning and Parks and Recreation departments, to better integrate work and maximize resources towards resource enhancement. The group decided it needed a city-wide assessment and guiding document, resulting in the "City of Issaquah Stream and Riparian Areas Restoration Plan." The project began with a multidisciplinary and comprehensive review of City streams, which identified and ranked 74 potential restoration projects according to likely ecological results, feasibility and community benefit. Conceptual restoration designs, including habitat features, bank stabilization and revegetation, were completed for the top 28 projects. The atlas of projects included an in-depth discussion of implementation strategies, including regulatory implications and funding opportunities.

The City has successfully used the draft concepts to help plan, secure funding, and construct multiple restoration projects. One such project, completed in 2010, is the restoration of a 1,250 foot section of Issaquah Creek and associated wetlands at Squak Valley Park North. This project garnered over $1 million in grants, from the King Conservation District and the State of Washington's Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, to remove an existing levee, re-grade a floodplain to incorporate stream meanders, and place large woody debris structures and rock to create pool-riffle sequences along stream sections previously dominated by glides.

**Design and Construction of Vegetated Riprap for Salmon Habitat and ESA Compliance: Lessons Learned from a NW Case Study**

Kim Gould
Aquatic Ecologist
SWCA Environmental Consultants

In 2007, a sudden riverbank collapse threatened an industrial landowner's access road adjacent to the Columbia River. Geotechnical analysis revealed highly unstable and erosion-prone base materials and

led to an engineer's recommendation to armor the bank with Class II riprap. SWCA fish biologists and riparian ecologists collaborated with geotechnical engineers and construction contractors to integrate large wood and several native planting techniques (live stakes, fascines, steel planting rings, and seed mixtures) into the design of the armored riverbank. This resulted in a safe and stable road prism, enhanced riparian and floodplain habitat, and compliance with conditions of a programmatic ESA consultation for several Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon and steelhead ESUs. Two years of vegetation monitoring results will be presented.

**A Tale of Two Streams**

Jeanne Hanson
Habitat Conservation Division
NOAA Fisheries

Alaska is noted for its largeness: mountains that tower, ocean storms that rage and Chinook salmon that dwarf their captor. In this wilderness lies Anchorage. Alaska's most populated city. Within the city there is a story of two different watersheds with different approaches to restoration and protection. Novel to these stories is the presence of salmon streams running directly through an urban area. These two models illustrate how successful restoration and preservation are molded by the definitions of success based on the value of the waterway in context of the community that values it.

In 1914 the city of Anchorage started as a "tent city" along the banks of Ship Creek coinciding with the construction of the Alaska Railroad. As Anchorage developed so did Ship Creek. The stream became channelized, dams were constructed, and the water became polluted. Natural salmon runs declined and enhancement by hatchery production became necessary. Today, native stock has been abandoned in favor of hatchery introductions, which allow for substantial runs into the city's downtown; where tourists walk from their hotels to prime fishing grounds. Successful restoration on the stream is conducted with this user group in mind. Stream bank stabilization takes into account fishers, using vegetation that does not block access to the stream. Bridge construction also takes into account tourist and fisher access, with construction of platforms for observation and fishing. All of these projects improve fish habitat, but the ability to conduct these projects and sell them to the public necessitates that the they address what is valued in Ship Creek; an inner city fishing spot and tourist destination.

Campbell Creek tells a slightly different story, only becoming an urban stream in the last few decades as the city sprawled. Unlike Ship Creek. Campbell Creek runs through light industry, parks, and residential zones, with little tourist pressure. The creek is valued as a fishing stream, green space and trail system. These values are reflected in how restoration and protection efforts are implemented. Long term relationships for stewardship are being stressed with homeowners, businesses, and the Municipality. Restoration and preservation actions on the stream are focused on the juvenile rearing grounds of tributaries where there is no fishing. In Campbell Creek itself, the bigger picture involves preserving the

pristine upper watershed and estuary needed to keep what community values as a self sustaining salmon producing stream, natural waterway, and green space.

**The Right Project Is a Moving Target: Lessons from Trinity River Restoration**

Brandt Gutermuth
Trinity River Restoration Program
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

In 2000 the Secretary of the Interior signed the Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Record of Decision (ROD) and authorized river flows in order to emulate natural conditions and mechanical channel rehabilitation to jump-start floodplain - regulated river interactions. In order to put river restoration on a 40-mile reach of the Trinity, Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) staff has developed federal and state programmatic authorizations, yet there's still differing opinions on what work is a priority. The TRRP is now working to restore pre-dam alluvial river processes and salmonid habitat, but these seemingly similar objectives may not always support the same projects. Interpretation of the "right way" to implement mechanical river restoration is changing and varied. Within the guidelines of adaptive management, the TRRP is now implementing varied restoration concepts and monitoring the results.

Federal court challenges have been won, state programmatic support is in place, and the TRRP is making change on a large-scale where habitat and fish population response should be measurable. From 2005 to 2010, over twenty restoration projects were constructed, completing the first Phase of Trinity restoration. During Phase 1, approximately: $18 million in implementation funds were obligated; 11 miles of mainstem river were treated; 220 acres of floodplain and riparian zones were created; four miles of new wetted channel were constructed; 600,000 cubic yards of earth were moved; 67,500 tons of gravel were augmented; and over 2,000 pieces of large wood were installed. However, the trade-offs between restoration of functional systems, aquatic habitat enhancement, and standard project construction requirements for environmental protection, continue to be a challenge.

The TRRP now balances long-term beneficial restoration needs that are going to bring back fish and wildlife, with short-term legally mandated requirements. Unfortunately the ability to meet short-term mitigation requirements can be costly, and considering limited finances, may reduce the project's ability to obtain long-term measurable goals. As contract specifications incorporate environmental mitigation methods during construction, the need for sensitivity, on private and public lands, continues and landowner support remains the critical piece required for TRRP success. Management guidance must remain adaptable so that projects can move forward and evolve as implementation methods are refined based on public perception, expected outcomes, and measurement of actual cumulative impacts.

# Plan for revising the National Fish Habitat Action Plan
# Approved by the National Fish Habitat Board January 13, 2011

The work of updating the Action Plan will be overseen by a Board-appointed Work Group, with a target of Board approval of the revised Action Plan in October 2011. Work Group members are listed on the following page.

Revisions will be strictly limited as follows:

- Replace the "Objectives" section on page 5 with new objectives. To the extent possible, new objectives will be specific, measurable, and time-bound.
- Replace or update text / graphics boxes on pages 4, 5, 7, 10, and 11.
- Update Exhibits 1-5 as follows:
    - Exhibit 1 – National Fish Habitat Board, staff, and committees
    - Exhibit 2 – Fish Habitat Partnerships
    - Exhibit 3 – Science and Data Strategy
    - Exhibit 4 – Federal Caucus
    - Exhibit 5 – Partner Coalition.
- Create a new "look" with graphics on the cover and inside.
- Consider other changes to the text of the Action Plan only if a very strong justification is made. Avoid change for the sake of change.

January 13 - Present proposed plan to the National Fish Habitat Board for approval. **DONE**

January – April - Confirm membership of the Work Group and schedule meetings. **DONE IN MAY**

April 12-13 – Discuss Action Plan revision at the Board meeting to gauge the Board's preferences as to the new objectives. **DONE**

May-June – Work Group meets. Conference calls and web conferences will supplement face-to-face meetings as needed. **CONFERENCE CALLS HELD ON 6/8, 6/23, and 7/6**

July 26-27 - Present a progress report and request feedback at Board meeting.

August - Solicit comments on draft changes via email from Fish Habitat Partnerships, the Science & Data Committee, the Federal Caucus, and State fish chiefs.

September 4-8 - American Fisheries Society annual meeting in Seattle. Present proposed new objectives at NFHAP symposium for discussion by attendees.

September 11-14 - Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies annual meeting in Omaha. Present proposed new objectives to Fisheries & Water Resources Policy Committee.

Late September - Work Group finalizes proposed changes via email, conference call, and web conference.

October 19-20 - Present final recommendations to the Board for approval.

November-December – Final layout and printing.

| **Members of the Work Group revising the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in 2011** | |
|---|---|
| Mike Andrews, chair | The Nature Conservancy, National Fish Habitat Board |
| Steve Perry | New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, National Fish Habitat Board vice-chair |
| Mike Stone | Wyoming Game & Fish Department, National Fish Habitat Board |
| Steve Moyer/Jack Williams | Trout Unilimited, National Fish Habitat Board |
| Brad Gentner | Gentner Consulting Group, National Fish Habitat Board |
| Doug Boyd | Coastal Conservation Association Board member, Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council member, National Fish Habitat Board |
| Ross Self | S Carolina Department of Natural Resources |
| Doug Stang | New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture |
| Don Gabelhouse | Nebraska Game & Parks Commission |
| Tim Birdsong | Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, NFHAP Science & Data Committee |
| Hal Beecher | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, NFHAP Science & Data Committee |
| Gary Whelan | Michigan Department of Natural Resources, NFHAP Science & Data Committee co-chair |
| Andrea Ostroff | U.S. Geological Survey, NFHAP Science & Data Committee co-chair |
| Tom Busiahn | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Fish Habitat Board staff |
| Karen Abrams | NOAA Fisheries Service, National Fish Habitat Board staff |
| Pat Rivers | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership |
| Robin Knox | Western Native Trout Initiative |
| Nat Gillespie | U.S. Forest Service |
| Mark Smith | The Nature Conservancy |
| Jeff Boxrucker | Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership |
| Roger Pugliese | South Atlantic Fishery Management Council |
| Sheila Cameron | Alaska Department of Fish & Game |
| Ken Able | Rutgers University Intitute for Marine & Coastal Sciences |
| Rudy Schuster | U.S. Geological Survey - Policy Analysis & Science Assistance Branch |
| James Adams | Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council |
| Christy Plumer | The Nature Conservancy, National Fish Habitat Board legislative team |
| Matt Menashes | Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, National Fish Habitat Board staff |
| Colin Hume | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service |

### SUSTAINED & ACCOUNTABLE

The plan recognizes the need to support regional fish habitat initiatives on a long-term, sustained basis. It also understands the need to evaluate and report each project's performance and demonstrate overall results to Congress, partners and the general public.

The plan offers an unprecedented opportunity to meet the challenges of protecting, restoring and enhancing aquatic habitats on a national scale. The plan's vision of healthy habitats, healthy fish, healthy people and healthy economies will be achieved through cooperation, investment and stewardship. This vision will result in local actions that yield measurable social, economic and ecological benefits—and more fish!


## Mission, Goals & Objectives

### MISSION

The mission of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan is to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people. This mission will be achieved by:

- Supporting existing fish habitat partnerships and fostering new efforts.
- Mobilizing and focusing national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals.
- Setting national and regional fish habitat conservation goals.
- Measuring and communicating the status and needs of fish habitats.
- Providing national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats.

### GOALS

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems.
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected.
- Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species.

### OBJECTIVES

- Conduct a condition analysis of all fish habitats within the United States by 2010.
- Identify priority fish habitats and establish Fish Habitat Partnerships targeting these habitats by 2010.
- Establish 12 or more Fish Habitat Partnerships throughout United States by 2010.
- Prepare a "Status of Fish Habitats in the United States" report in 2010 and every five years thereafter.
- Protect all healthy and intact fish habitats by 2015.
- Improve the condition of 90 percent of priority habitats and species targeted by Fish Habitat Partnerships by 2020.

### DEFINITIONS

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan focuses on fish and their habitats as keystones for the full range of aquatic biodiversity and aquatic habitats in the United States.

A focus on fish includes the protection, restoration and enhancement of freshwater and marine species, including shellfish and crustaceans.

A focus on habitat encompasses the protection, restoration and enhancement of freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats.

National Fish Habitat Board meeting July 26-27, 2011

**National Fish Habitat Board Members**

| | |
|---|---|
| Kelly Hepler, *Chair* | Alaska |
| Steve Perry, *Vice Chair* | Northeast AFWA |
| John Frampton | Southeast AFWA |
| Joe Larscheid | Midwest AFWA |
| Mike Stone | Western AFWA |
| Ron Regan | AFWA |
| Eric Schwaab | NOAA/NMFS |
| Rowan Gould | DOI/FWS |
| D. Fred Matt | Native American Fish and Wildlife Society |
| Krystyna Wolniakowski | NFWF |
| Chris Wood | Conservation/Academic, TU |
| Michael Andrews | Conservation/Academic, TNC |
| Doug Boyd | Conservation/Academic, SFBPC |
| Stan Moberly | Conservation/Academic, AFS |
| Randy Fisher | At large/Interstate Fishery Commission, PSMFC |
| Bob Mahood | At large/Fishery Management Council, SAFMC |
| Gordon Robertson | At large, ASA |
| Chris Horton | At large, CSF |
| Brad Gentner | At large, CCA |
| Anne Zimmermann | USDA FS |

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Pocket

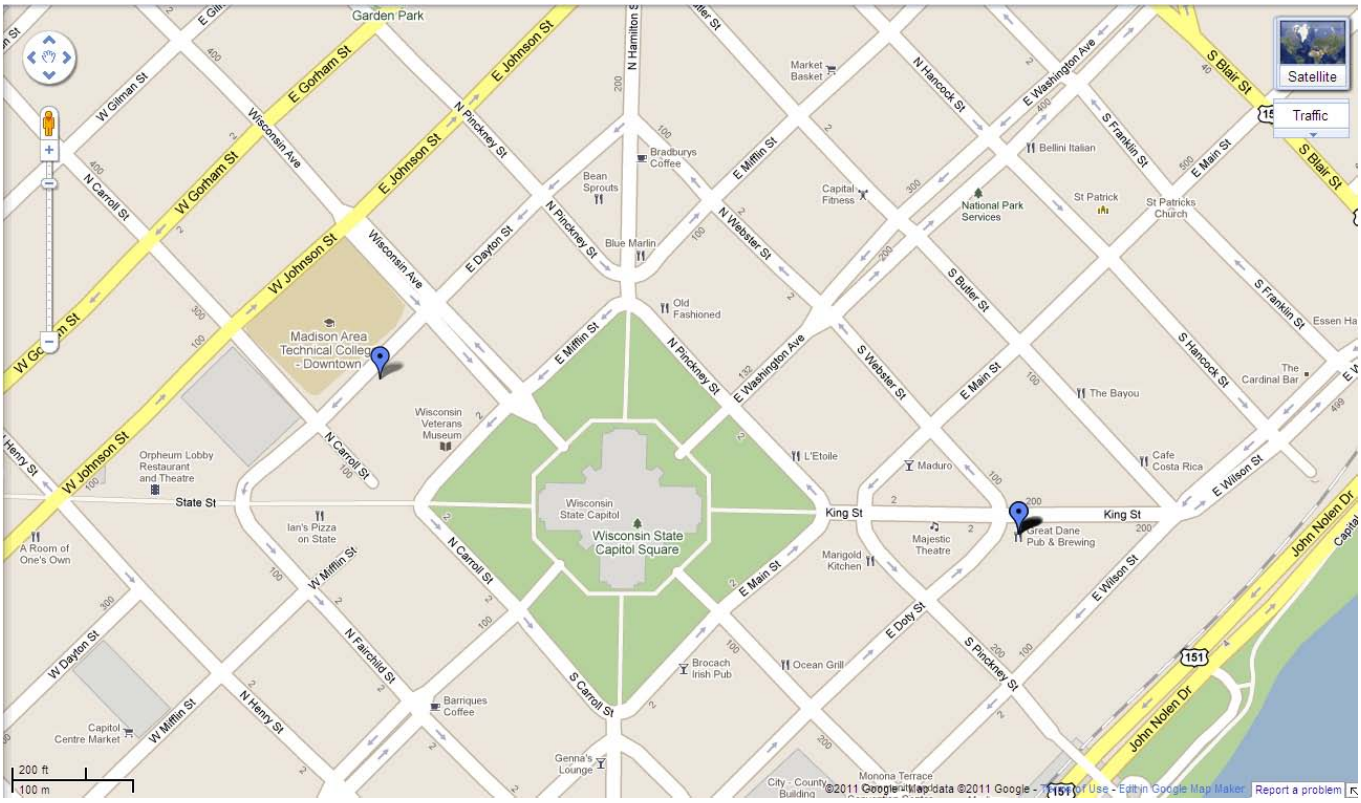
**National Fish Habitat Board Meeting July 26 and 27, 2011**

Meeting location and Hotel:

Madison Concourse Hotel (Capitol Ballroom)
One West Dayton St.
Madison, WI 53703
Telephone: 800-356-8293  Fax: (608) 257-8454

Social Gathering (July 26)

Great Dane Pub and Brewing
123 East Doty St # 1
Madison, WI 53703-5134
(508) 284-0000



# Driftless Area Stream Tour

Monday July 25
1:00pm- 5:10pm

**DRAFT Itenerary:**

12:50 pm — Start loading bus at Madison Concourse Hotel (1 West Dayton Street)

1:00 pm — Leave hotel
- Presenter on bus -John Welter, Trout Unlimited- challenges facing habitat restoration in the Driftless

1:40pm — Arrive at Parrell's farmstead
-short walk to stream from driveway

2:00 pm — **Welcome** Kevin Connors, Executive Director, Dane County LWRD
**Introductions**
- Site 1 -culvert replacement, cattle crossing, stream restoration
  Pete Jopke (Dane County LWRD)

Load bus and head to Site 2

- Site 2 -Stair step fish passage site
  Pete Jopke and Kurt Welke (WI DNR)

- Site 3-Restored stream section to historic stream channel-public ground
  Kurt Welke and Scott Harpold (WI DNR)

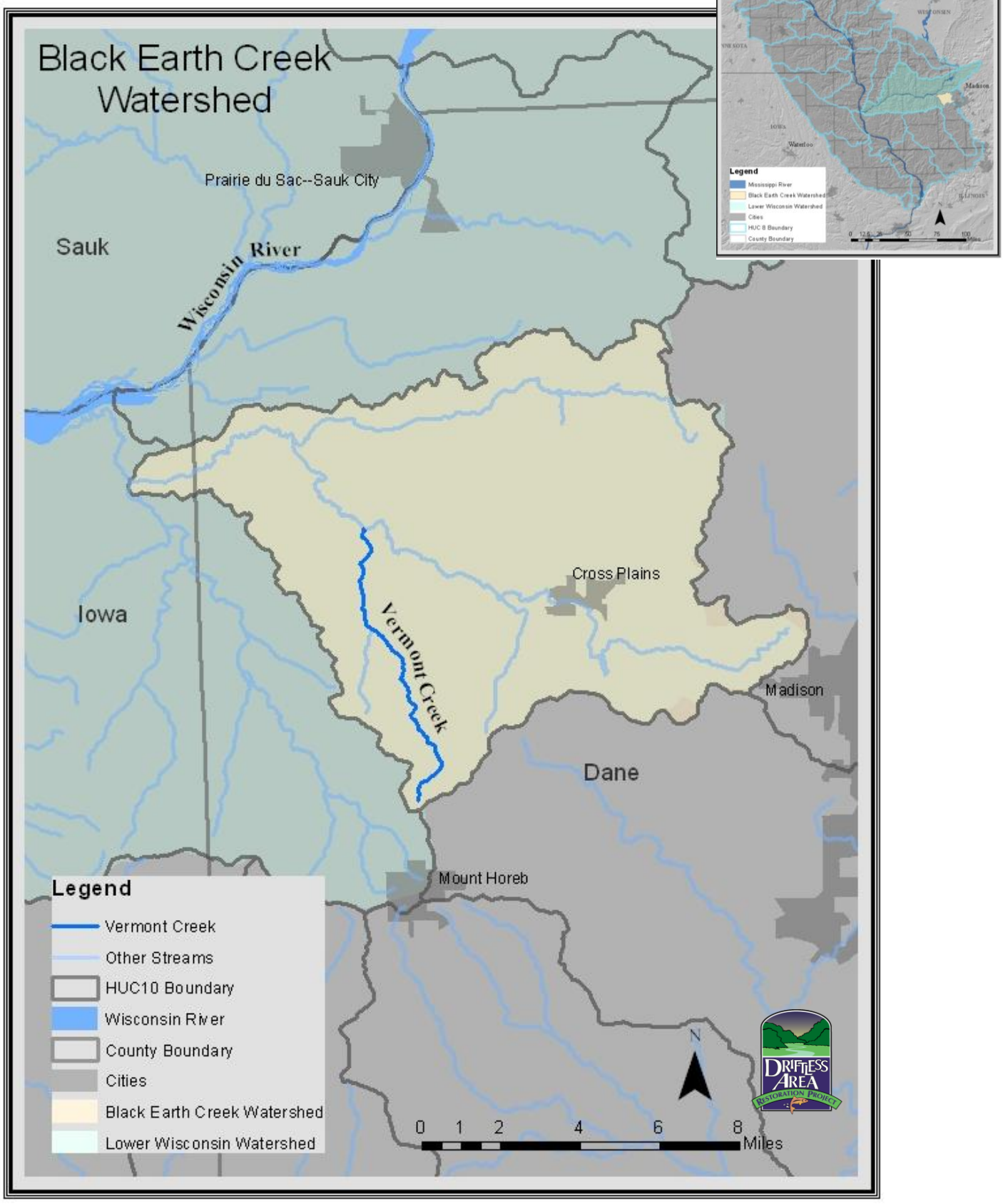
3:15 pm — Leave Vermont Creek

3:35 pm — East Branch Pecatonica
- Military Ridge area background
  Bob Hansis (WI DNR)/Steve Richter (TNC)
- Site 1 2006 restoration area –Soil excavation to legacy floodplain
  - 2011 habitat plans
  Steve Richter/Bob Hansis
  - Herptile monitoring and other monitoring efforts
  Jerimiah YahnUW- Madison/ others

4:35 pm — Load bus, slow drive by 2008 site (County Rd K) on way back to Madison

5:00 pm — Arrive at Madison Concourse

Bottled water and sunscreen supplied


Black Earth Creek Watershed
Prairie du Sac--Sauk City
Sauk
Wisconsin River
Iowa
Vermont Creek
Cross Plains
Madison
Dane
Mount Horeb
Legend
Vermont Creek
Other Streams
HUC10 Boundary
Wisconsin River
County Boundary
Cities
Black Earth Creek Watershed
Lower Wisconsin Watershed
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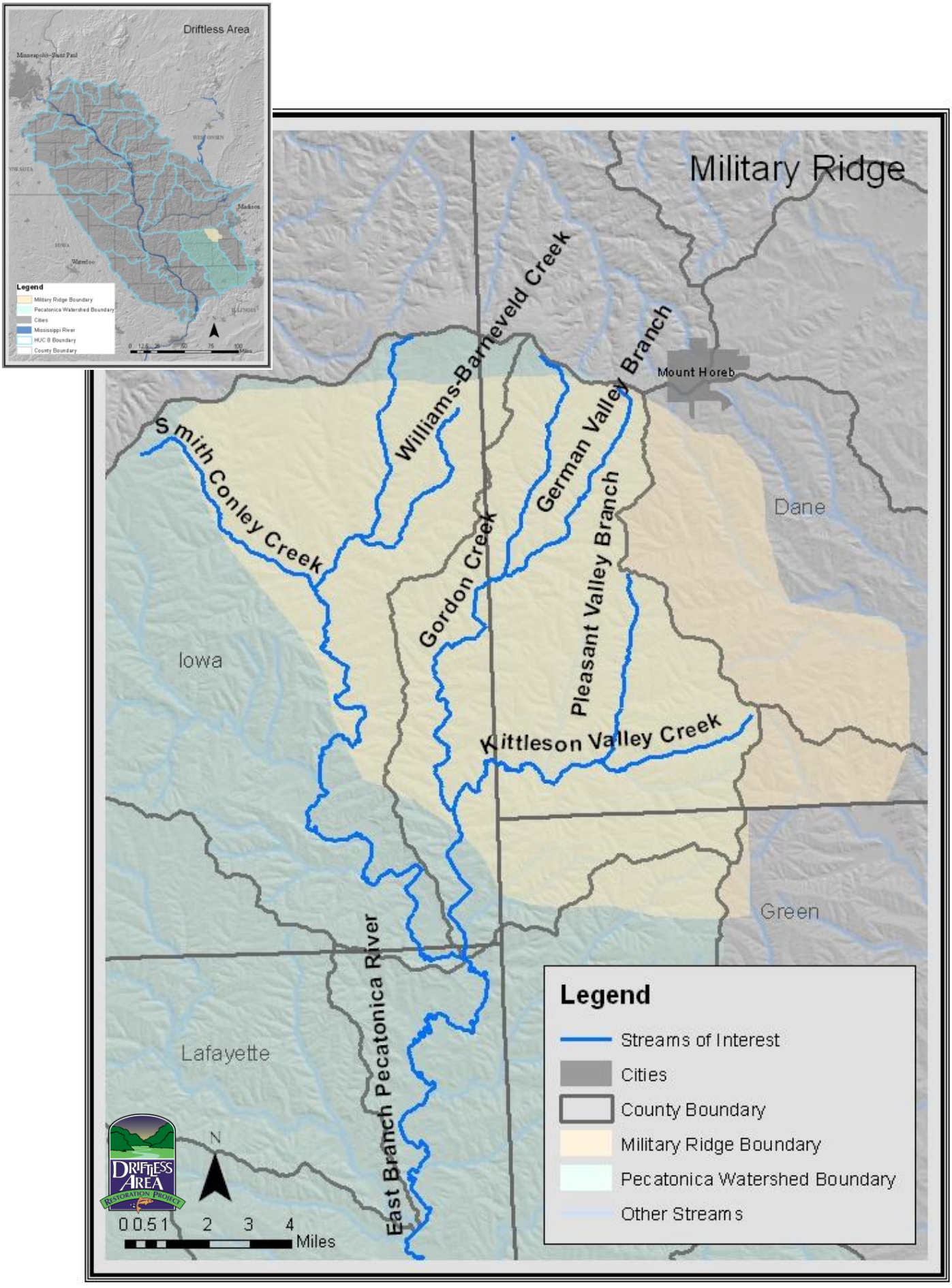
Driftless Area
Minneapolis-Saint Paul
Madison
Waterloo
Legend
Mississippi River
Black Earth Creek Watershed
Lower Wisconsin Watershed
Cities
HUC 8 Boundary
County Boundary
Miles
DRIFTLESS AREA
RESTORATION PROJECT

# Vermont Creek tour map
# July 2011


Driftless Area
Minneapolis-Saint Paul
WISCONSIN
Madison
IOWA
Waterloo
ILLINOIS
Legend
Military Ridge Boundary
Pecatonica Watershed Boundary
Cities
Mississippi River
HUC 8 Boundary
County Boundary
Military Ridge
Williams-Barneveld Creek
German Valley Branch
Mount Horeb
Smith Conley Creek
Gordon Creek
Pleasant Valley Branch
Dane
Iowa
Kittleson Valley Creek
Green
East Branch Pecatonica River
Lafayette
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County Boundary
Military Ridge Boundary
Pecatonica Watershed Boundary
Other Streams
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Miles

# East Branch Pecatonica River Tour Map
# July 2011